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## 'Let's go home': Afghan war vets torn on U.S.-Taliban deal

By RUSS BYNUM  
Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — Veterans of America's longest war are finding themselves torn as the U.S. signs a potentially historic peace accord with the Taliban in Afghanistan.

For many, the U.S. is long overdue in withdrawing its forces after more than 18 years of fighting. Others question the trustworthiness of the Taliban, whose hard-line government the

U.S.-led forces overthrew in 2001. Skeptics worry the Taliban's re-integration could cause Afghanistan to backslide on such issues as human rights.

"If they sign a peace treaty and Afghanistan goes back to the Taliban or Sharia law, then it's all been for nothing," said former Army Staff Sgt. Will Blackburn of Hinesville, Georgia.

Continued on Page 2



In this Dec. 31, 2001, file photo, U.S. Marines with full battle gear prepare to leave the U.S. military compound at Kandahar airport for a mission to an undisclosed location.

Associated Press

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# 'Let's go home': Afghan war vets torn on U.S.-Taliban deal

Continued from Front

Though doubtful the Taliban will abide by the peace deal, Blackburn said he's ready for hostilities to end.

He first deployed to Afghanistan in 2004 with an infantry unit of the Army's 10th Mountain Division. A decade later, his son headed overseas for the same fight.

"Anything that would get us out of that country, I will support fully," said Blackburn, 58, who left the Army in 2010.

Other Afghanistan veterans interviewed by The Associated Press said that, while the peace deal may not be perfect, it's time to end the war that began weeks after the 9/11 terror attacks.

The toll has been heavy. More than 2,300 U.S. service members have been killed and more than 20,600 others wounded in Afghanistan since the war began in October 2001.

Former Sgt. Michael Carrasquillo served as an infantryman in the Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade when his unit was ambushed in Afghanistan in 2005. Shot five times while dragging a wounded comrade to safety, Carrasquillo spent the next two years in the hospital and underwent dozens of surgeries.

"Peace in any way, shape or form is a good thing," said Carrasquillo, 36, of Monrovia, Maryland, who leads a support group for wounded veterans through the Wounded Warrior Project. "We don't want more guys to die or to get injured."

The peace plan calls for the Trump administration to initially draw down U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan from 13,000 to 8,600, with the remaining American forces withdrawing in 14 months.

In return, the Taliban promise not to let extremists use the country to stage attacks on the U.S. or its allies. The Taliban and representatives from Kabul must negotiate a framework for a postwar Afghanistan.

"I know the Taliban, and I



In this Dec. 25, 2019, file photo, an Army carry team moves a transfer case containing the remains of U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Goble at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Goble, a U.S. Special Forces soldier who died in Afghanistan in December 2019.

Associated Press

never thought they could be trustworthy," said Cmdr. Tom Porter of the U.S. Navy Reserve, who oversaw media operations in Afghanistan during the U.S.-led troop surge that began in 2010.

"I know they have a different view of time and history than we do."

Porter said he's concerned the Taliban could abide by the accord long enough to see American forces leave, then try to wrest control of Afghanistan under an assumption the U.S. won't be willing to return for another fight.

"If you're the Taliban, people have come and gone and invaded that place for thousands of years," said Porter, head of government affairs in Washington for the group Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. "Genghis Khan has come and gone. They've got a long view of things."

Former Army Capt. Emily Miller's job focused on communicating with Afghan women and children on deployments in 2011 and

2012 to assist U.S. special operations forces. She said protecting women's rights and human rights overall needs to be a priority.

Overall, Miller said, she's thrilled to see a chance for Afghanistan to break from its long history of perpetual war.

"There is this new generation and I think it's really time to unlock that hope and optimism of Afghans that are really open to peace," she said. "What's the alternative to peace? This endless cycle of violence doesn't really lead anywhere."

At Fort Stewart in southeast Georgia, Army Staff Sgt. Phillip Wright thinks of himself as "one of the older guys" at age 33. He deployed to Kabul in 2010 with a field artillery unit to help train Afghanistan's army.

Nowadays, Wright works alongside many young American soldiers who've never been overseas. He thinks it's time for Afghanistan's military to stand on its own after years of U.S. mentoring.

"We were able to train an

army for another country. So I do believe there has been a lot of good that's come out of it," he said.

There's no hesitation from Chris Collins, a former Army Reservist, when asked if it's time for a U.S. exit.

"It's not worth one more American life," said Collins, 38. "Enough is enough."

Collins' unit from Missouri deployed to neighboring Uzbekistan in 2004 to

run a supply warehouse for U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Returning as a civilian contractor five years later, he concluded little had changed.

"Let's go home," said Collins, now training to be a nurse.

"We can't stay there forever. They don't want us there. It's no different today than it was 18 years ago, essentially." □

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## Court halts Trump asylum policy, then suspends its own order

By ELLIOT SPAGAT  
Associated Press

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — A 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel voted unanimously Friday to suspend an order it issued earlier in the day to block a central pillar of the Trump administration's policy requiring asylum seekers to wait in Mexico while their cases wind through U.S. courts. The three-judge panel told the government to file written arguments by the end of Monday and for the plaintiffs to respond by the end of Tuesday.

The Justice Department said at least 25,000 asylum seekers subject to the policy are currently waiting in Mexico and expressed "massive and irreparable national-security of public-safety concerns." Government attorneys said immigration lawyers had begun demanding that asylum seekers be allowed in the United States, with one insisting that 1,000 people be allowed to enter at one location. "The Court's reinstatement of the injunction causes the United States public and


the government significant and irreparable harms — to border security, public safety, public health, and diplomatic relations," Justice Department attorneys wrote. Customs and Border Protection had already begun to stop processing people under the policy. ACLU attorney Judy Rabinovitz called the suspension of Friday's order "a temporary step." "We will continue working to permanently end this unspeakably cruel policy," she said. □




A father, in white, holds the hand of his daughter as they and other asylum seekers leave court under guard after some of them learned that they won't have to return to Mexico in light of a major federal court ruling against the Trump administration on Friday, Feb. 28, 2020, in El Paso, Texas.

Associated Press

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# Biden, Sanders claim momentum heading into Super Tuesday

By STEVE PEOPLES, MEG KINNARD, BILL BARROW and LISA MASCARO  
Associated Press

**COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)** — Joe Biden said Sunday he can "unite this country, the whole country" after scoring a comeback victory in South Carolina's Democratic primary that could force moderate rivals out of the race and blunt the rise of progressive leader Bernie Sanders.

Biden vowed he would improve his campaign operation, his fundraising haul — and even his own performance — as the race pushes toward Super Tuesday. He warned of a "stark choice" between him and Sanders, while making the case he is the candidate that can win up and down the ballot and in states beyond those voting next week.

"I feel good," Biden said on ABC's "This Week." "I can win and I can bring along Democratic victories."

Biden saturated the airwaves with back-to-back interviews after Saturday's win, which came on the



**Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden smiles at supporters during a campaign event at Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, N.C., Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020.**  
Associated Press

strength of African American support and at a perilous moment in his 2020 bid. He needed an emphatic rebound after underwhelming performances in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada.

The race now pivots to the 14 states from Maine to California that vote on Tuesday in what in effect will be a national primary in a race increasingly becoming a match-up between the two powerhouses representing divergent paths for the party.

Sanders led in fundraising hauls announced Sunday with an eye-popping \$46.5 million for February, his campaign said. The senator said it's not the total amount that should impress but the enthusiasm of working people fueling his candidacy.

"No campaign out there has a stronger grassroots movement than we do," Sanders said on CBS's "Face the Nation." "That's how you beat Trump."

Pressure is mounting to prevent a prolonged battle

that could stretch into summer as seven candidates remain in the Democrats' quest to find the strongest possible nominee to take on President Donald Trump in November.

The lagging candidates are being pushed to justify their campaigns or step aside so Biden can engage in a more direct match-up against Sanders, who heads into the coming week eager to surpass his rivals in amassing delegates for the nomination. There were few signs that anyone was leaving the race.

Billionaire Mike Bloomberg, who will be on the ballot for the first time next week, said Sunday he's not going anywhere before Tuesday's primaries.

"I'm optimistic," he told voters in Selma, Alabama, where many of the White House hopefuls gathered for ceremonies commemorating civil rights heroism. He has spent more than \$500 million advertising in the states set to vote this month.

Bloomberg received a mixed reception as he spoke from the pulpit of Selma's Brown Chapel AME Church. Ten parishioners stood and turned their backs to the New York billionaire as he talked about his desire to increase black home ownership and wealth. That was after the pastor told the congregation that Bloomberg initially said he was too busy to attend because he had to "beat Donald Trump." Elizabeth Warren's team spoke brazenly of pushing into a floor battle at the Democratic National Convention this summer if no candidate emerges from primary season with a majority, as seems increasingly likely.

"The convention in Milwaukee is the final play," wrote campaign manager Roger Lau in a memo.

Warren brought in \$29 million last month and Biden trailed with \$18 million, but the former vice president said he raised \$5 million in the last 24 hours, which is more than any previous day in his bumpy campaign.

Other dimming candidates Pete Buttigieg and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar appear to be pressing forward. Buttigieg said only that his campaign will be "assessing at every turn" the best steps for defeating Trump. "Our country can't take four more years of this," he said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Biden declined to ask rivals to bow out. "It's not for me to tell another candidate to get out of the race," Biden said on "Fox News Sunday."

Even with the victory, the shortcomings of Biden's campaign remain, including a lack of robust funding and organization that have drawn concern from top allies. He is barely running any television advertising in Super Tuesday states.

Bloomberg announced his own plan to deliver a three-minute prime-time address Sunday night on two television networks. He didn't say how much he paid for the air time, which is unprecedented in recent decades. And both Sanders and Bloomberg have many more staff and volunteers than Biden.

Leveling his own direct attack on Sanders, Biden declared, "The people aren't looking for revolution. They're looking for results." Biden won about three times as many delegates in South Carolina as Sanders, his nearest rival, giving a momentary respite to anxious Democrats who feared that the democratic socialist would finish February with four consecutive top finishes that would make it difficult for anyone to overtake him.

The Associated Press declared Biden the winner just after the polls closed in South Carolina. The AP based the call on data from AP VoteCast, a survey of the electorate conducted for the AP by NORC at the University of Chicago. The survey showed a convincing win for Biden.

But Biden made an aggressive round of media appearances on Sunday in an effort to counter Bloomberg's massive spending. □

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## Wash. state sees 1st virus death in U.S., declares emergency

By **ANDREW SELSKY**  
**Associated Press**

The governor of Washington declared a state of emergency Saturday after a man died there of COVID-19, the first such reported death in the United States. More than 50 people in a nursing facility are sick and being tested for the virus. Gov. Jay Inslee directed state agencies to use "all resources necessary" to prepare for and respond to the coronavirus outbreak. The declaration also allows the use of the Washington National Guard, if necessary. "We will continue to work toward a day where no one dies from this virus," the governor vowed. Health officials in California, Oregon and Washington state are worried about the novel coronavirus spreading through West Coast communities because a growing number of people are being infected despite not having visited an area where there was an outbreak, nor apparently been in contact with anyone who had. The man who died was in his 50s, had underlying health conditions and no history of travel or contact with a known COVID-19 case, health officials in Washington state said at a news conference. A spokesperson for EvergreenHealth Medical Center, Kayse Dahl, said the person died in the facility in the Seattle suburb of Kirkland. Dr. Frank Riedo, medical director of Infection Control at Evergreen, said local hospitals are seeing people with severe coronavirus symptoms but it's probable that there are more cases

in the community. "This is the tip of the iceberg," he said. The health officials reported two cases of COVID-19 virus connected to a long-term care facility in the same suburb, Life Care Center of Kirkland. One is a Life Care worker, a woman in her 40s who is in satisfactory condition at a hospital, and the other is a woman in her 70s and a resident at Life Care who is hospitalized in serious condition. Neither had traveled abroad. "In addition, over 50 individuals associated with Life Care are reportedly ill with respiratory symptoms or hospitalized with pneumonia or other respiratory conditions of unknown cause and are being tested for COVID-19," Seattle and King County officials said. "Additional positive cases are expected." Overlake Medical Center in Bellevue, Washington, said a health care worker from Life Care is a patient at the hospital. The woman, who is in her 40s, was admitted to the hospital Thursday and is in stable condition, the center said. Amy Reynolds of the Washington state health department said in a brief telephone interview: "We are dealing with an emergency evolving situation." No one answered the phone at Life Care, but Ellie Basham, its executive director, said in a statement that residents and employees are being monitored and those with symptoms or who were potentially exposed are quarantined. The facility has banned families, volunteers and

vendors as a precaution, Basham said. A growing number of cases in California, Washington state and Oregon are confounding authorities because the infected people hadn't recently traveled overseas or had any known close contact with a traveler or an infected person. The Santa Clara County Public Health Department announced Saturday the case of a fourth person in the county infected with coronavirus. The case is of a woman who is a "household contact" of a person who is hospitalized with the virus, the health department said in a news release. The woman has not been hospitalized and is not ill, the department said. In Oregon, the state's Health Authority said Saturday that the second person who was tested for exposure to the virus doesn't have it. The agency said in a statement that it "continues approving testing for persons under investigation, a number that's likely to increase following the report of the state's first presumptive case and new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance that calls for testing of anyone experiencing severe respiratory symptoms." The U.S. has about 60 confirmed cases. Worldwide, the number of people sickened by the virus hovered Friday around 83,000, and there were more than 2,800 deaths, most of them in China. A 60-year-old U.S. citizen died in Wuhan in early February. Most infections result in mild symptoms, includ-



A person is taken by stretcher to a waiting ambulance from a nursing facility where more than 50 people are sick and being tested for the COVID-19 virus, Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020, in Kirkland, Wash.

Associated Press

ing coughing and fever, though some can become more serious and lead to pneumonia. Older people, especially those with chronic illnesses such as heart or lung disease, are especially vulnerable. Health officials think it spreads mainly from droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how

the flu spreads. To achieve more rapid testing capacity, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an accelerated policy Saturday enabling laboratories to use tests they develop. FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn said his agency is "rapidly responding and adapting to this dynamic and evolving situation." □

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## Some states make it harder for college students to vote

By **ADRIAN SAINZ**  
Associated Press

**MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)** — Vanderbilt University student Will Newell wishes it was easier for college students like him to cast ballots in Tennessee, one of 14 states holding a presidential primary on Super Tuesday.

The campus has no locations for early voting, so students must visit an off-campus polling location to cast a ballot on Election Day. Newell drives but worries that many students who don't have their own transportation won't make it to a precinct. He said some campus groups offer rides to students, but the university itself does not provide a shuttle.

He supports a bill introduced in the Tennessee Legislature that would require early voting locations at large colleges and universities in the state. That's not the only restriction working against college students in the state. Tennessee, where overall voter turnout is low, is among several states that does not allow a college student ID. But it does allow a handgun license.

"It just makes the last part of actually getting them to the polls to vote a lot more difficult," Newell, a senior public policy and economics major, said of the ballot-casting hurdles faced by students in the state.

As Democratic candidates seek a boost from young voters in 2020, their impact at the polls could be blunted in a number of states that make voting more difficult for college students. Those include laws related to voter IDs, residency requirements and on-campus polling places. Critics say many of those laws are designed to dampen turn-



**In this Feb. 27, 2020, photo, Vanderbilt University student Will Newell is shown on the school's campus in Nashville, Tenn.**

Associated Press

out among voters who typically lean Democratic.

College groups aligned with the Democratic Party are mobilizing this year in an effort to defeat President Donald Trump's re-election, said Matt Nowling, national director of communications for the College Democrats of America.

"Republicans see that and they're scared," said Nowling, a junior at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. "College Democrats have been at the forefront of fighting against these issues."

Their efforts face obstacles, however.

Democrats say Republican-controlled legislatures in some states are actively trying to keep college students away from the polls. Some laws have been challenged in court, such as in New Hampshire, where a law essentially makes out-of-state college students subject to residency requirements like obtaining a state driver's license or registering their vehicles.

In Texas, Democrats have sued over a law requiring early voting locations to be open for the entire early voting period of 12 days. The law is geared to stopping "rolling polling," which allowed local governments

to use temporary mobile voting sites at college campuses, nursing homes and other locations.

Supporters say it's a response to placement of temporary voting locations at high school events during elections that feature local bond measures requiring tax increases. The Texas Public Policy Foundation, a conservative think tank, calls rolling polling a "predatory practice" that causes taxpayers to suffer.

"You had the bad actors go out there and use mobile voting locations to target particular voters," said James Quintero, director of the foundation's Center for Local Governance.

Quintero said the new law allows polling places to be open on campuses for all 12 days of early voting. But Democrats have pointed to the timing of the law, which was passed months after a dramatic spike in voter turnout in 2018.

Glen Maxey, legislative affairs director for the Texas Democratic Party, said the law hurts certain voting groups, such as seniors and students.

"It was very clear they were trying to stop college student voting," Maxey said. Texas and Tennessee are among seven states where

college identification cards are not allowed at polling places, with laws enacted by Republican-controlled legislatures between 2008 and 2018. The others are Arizona, Iowa, North Dakota, Ohio and South Carolina — all are states won by Donald Trump in 2016.

Bills working their way through some state legislatures also address college voting.

A law proposed by a Republican lawmaker in Arizona would prohibit students using college dormitory addresses in voter registration. The state already keeps student IDs off its list of approved voter identification. A bill proposed in the Arizona House would explicitly prohibit the use of college or university IDs at polling places.

"It's not just trying to come up with laws that directly disenfranchise students," said Rachel Clay, southeast regional director for the Campus Vote Project. "It's creating laws that make something that's already challenging and confusing for young people."

The Campus Vote Project was launched in 2012 by the Fair Elections Center, a non-partisan voting rights group, and has been working to increase interest in voting among college students.

Democrats are counting on increasing the college voter turnout in this year's presidential election, which also could help their candidates in races for Congress and state legislatures. A report from Tufts University's Institute for Democracy & Higher Education showed that college student voting rates in the 2018 midterm elections doubled compared with the 2014 midterms.

Some Democratically controlled states, like California, are trying to make campus voting easier. A new law requires county elections officials to consider placing voting centers on university or college campuses. State universities also are required to designate one person per campus as a "civic and voter empowerment coordinator."

In Tennessee, Democratic state Rep. London Lamar has proposed a law that would require county election commissions to place early voting locations at colleges or universities with at least 8,000 students.

In Lamar's hometown of Memphis, Landon Shelby has to vote off-campus. Shelby, a University of Memphis junior and a Republican, said he would like to see campus polling places so students don't have to drive or hitch a ride to a precinct.

"In years past, the University of Memphis has helped find transportation to the polls, but I would definitely like to see it become more common," said Shelby, secretary of student government relations at the university.

The chances of that happening any time soon aren't great. Lamar's early voting legislation will face an uphill fight in the Republican-dominated General Assembly, especially in an election year.

But the bill has a Republican co-sponsor, and Lamar hopes her GOP colleagues agree that it's important to simplify the voting process for college students.

"The bill is about everybody being able to vote on college campuses," Lamar said. "It's to ensure that the younger generation takes part in the political process." □

## West Virginia Univ. president responds after 2 shootings

**MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP)**

— The president of West Virginia University released a letter Sunday emphasizing the university's commitment to safety after two recent shootings near the Morgantown campus, one of them involving a fatality. WVU President Gordon Gee wrote to the community that the campus of more than 26,000 students is "concerned and unnerved" but that the shootings on Friday and Saturday "remain an aberration to our life here."

Two people were arrested in Friday's shooting at a student housing apartment complex and charged with first-degree murder. Neither was a student. The university identified the victim as Eric James Smith, 21, a sophomore majoring in multidisciplinary studies from Clementon, New Jersey. Smith was a former resident of the apartment complex.



This is a June 20, 2016, file photo showing West Virginia University president E. Gordon Gee in Morgantown, W.V.

Associated Press

Early Saturday, two men were arrested in an apartment shooting that left one person injured. Morgantown police said the victim and another person had been invited to the apartment for a marijuana purchase that turned into a robbery attempt.

"I realize it may feel that

West Virginia University is no longer a safe campus," Gee said. "I want to reassure everyone that our University has a commitment

each and every day to keep our campus as safe as possible."

Gee said the university will look into additional measures that can be taken to prevent such events from happening again.

"The sad fact is our part of the world is also beset with all the ill — and good — of society at large," Gee said. "We cannot stop bad things from happening — but we can work to prevent them and be prepared for when they do."

Gee said he cares about WVU students as if they were his own children, and "I pledge to all Mountaineers, both current and future, that we will redouble our efforts to ensure our campus is the safest it can possibly be." □

## N.H.-based bus company stops warrantless immigration checks

**CONCORD, N.H. (AP)**

— Concord Coach Lines is the latest company to announce it will no longer allow immigration officers onto buses unless they have a warrant.

The New Hampshire company's decision on Friday follows an announcement by Greyhound that it will no longer allow warrantless immigration checks on its buses. The Associated Press obtained a memo from Customs and Border Protection that said agents can't board private buses without the consent of the bus company.

Concord Coach Lines Vice President Benjamin Blunt said the company wanted to be sure it understood the policy implications before making a decision. Employees are now equipped with cards that will communicate the policy to Border Patrol agents, he said.

"The safety of our passengers is not something that

we take lightly. We have understood the arguments for making this change, but have worked to fully understand the implications that a change would have on law enforcement's ability to prevent all forms of criminal behavior. We are confident that this is the right thing to do," he said.

The American Civil Liberties Union has been pushing for bus companies to deny searches for fear that people of color or people with foreign accents will be singled out.

"With this new policy, Concord Coach is doing the right thing and disallowing Border Patrol from conducting warrantless searches of their passengers," SangYeob Kim, immigration staff attorney at the ACLU of New Hampshire.

The company operates from New Hampshire and Maine, providing transportation to Boston and New York City. □

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# Turkey opens gates into Europe as migrants gather on border

By **ANDREW WILKS** and **COSTAS KANTOURIS** Associated Press

**ANKARA, Turkey (AP)** — Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said his country's borders with Europe were open Saturday, making good on a longstanding threat to let refugees into the continent as thousands of migrants gathered at the frontier with Greece. Erdogan's announcement that Turkey is allowing refugees and migrants to exit the country marked a dramatic departure from current policy and an apparent attempt to pressure Europe.

It came amid a military escalation in northwestern Syria's Idlib province that has forced hundreds of thousands of Syrian civilians



Greek border guards patrol, left, as migrants wait at he Turkey-Greece border, in Pazarkule, Edirne, Turkey, Friday, Feb. 28, 2020.

Associated Press

threatened to "open the gates" and allow refugees and migrants to head to Europe unless more international support was provided.

The German foreign ministry said it was in contact with other governments regarding the matter and assumed and expected that the EU-Turkey agreement will be adhered to.

Since seizing territory from Kurdish forces in a different part of Syria in October, Erdogan has also suggested resettling at least a million Syrian refugees from Turkey in that northeastern region. However, his efforts to secure funding for such a scheme have been rejected by European governments. Aid groups have said it is still too dangerous to return refugees to Syria.

Turkey currently hosts more than 3.5 million Syrian refugees, and many others fleeing war and poverty in Asia, Africa and the Middle East use it as a staging post and transit point to reach Europe, usually through neighboring Greece.

Migrants played a cat-and-mouse game with Greek border patrols Friday night through Saturday, with Greek authorities firing tear gas to repulse the crowd's attempts to push through the border. Greek officials said migrants lobbed at least 20 canisters of tear gas toward the border from the Turkish side.

Greek officials arrested 66 migrants Friday, 17 of whom were sentenced to 3.5 years in jail for entering the country illegally. All Afghans, they were are the first migrants sentenced for illegal entry since 2014. On Saturday, Greece arrested another 70 migrants who tried to cross the border from Turkey.

Some migrants cut holes in the fence, with a few managing to get through. They took shelter overnight in abandoned buildings or small chapels in the Greek countryside before starting to walk toward northern cities.

Others were crossing from the Turkish coast to nearby Greek islands. □

to flee fighting between advancing Syrian government forces backed by Russia and rebel fighters supported by Turkey.

The mass displacement in Idlib has raised the possibility that Turkey might come under growing international pressure to open its now sealed border with Syria and offer refuge to desperate Syrian civilians.

"We can't handle a new wave of migration," Erdogan said Saturday, in an apparent reference to the growing humanitarian crisis in Idlib. Nearly 950,000 displaced civilians have been pushed toward the Syrian-Turkish border amid cold winter weather.

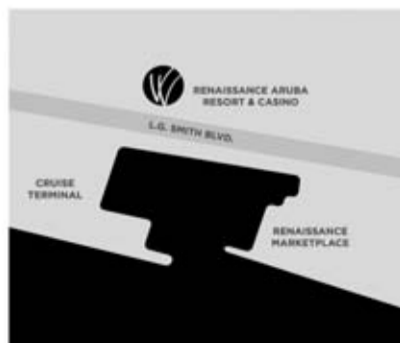
Erdogan said Turkey would not stand in the way of refugees and migrants already in the country who hope to head to Europe.

"We will not close the gates to refugees," he said. "The European Union has to keep its promises. We are not obliged to look after and feed so many refugees."

Under a 6 billion euro deal in 2016, Turkey agreed to stem the tide of refugees to Europe in return for financial aid after more than a million people entered Europe in 2015. It has since accused the EU of failing to honor the agreement. Erdogan has frequently



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## Slovakia's populists win vote with anti-corruption stance

**BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP)** — Slovakia's center-right populist opposition claimed victory Sunday in the country's parliamentary election, ending the reign of the long-dominant but scandal-tainted leftist party in a move that analysts said showed a strong desire by voters to end corruption. According to final results released Sunday by the Statistics Office, the Ordinary People group captured 25% of Saturday's vote and 53 seats in the 150-seat parliament. The senior ruling leftist Smer-Social Democracy party led by former populist Prime Minister Robert Fico came in second with 18.3% or 38 seats. The results steered the country to the right and could eventually make a local ally of France's far-right National Rally party led by Marine Le Pen a part of Slovakia's governing coalition. "We will try to form the best government Slovakia's ever had," Ordinary People chairman Igor Matovic told 2,000 cheering supporters in a sports hall in his hometown of Trnava, northeast of the capital, Bratislava.

The pro-western Matovic, 46, has made fighting corruption and attacking Fico the central tenet of his campaign. He is likely to become the country's next prime minister. Officials measured the temperature of every person coming into the hall due to fears about the new coronavirus. Slovakia hasn't a single confirmed case yet. The ruling Smer party has been in power for most of the past 14 years, winning big in every election since 2006 in Slovakia, a European Union nation of almost 5.5 million people in cen-



**Leader of the Ordinary People and Independent Personalities party Igor Matovic arrives for a TV debate day after the Slovakia's general election in Bratislava, Sunday, March 1, 2020.**

Associated Press

tral Europe. The party won 28.3% in 2016 after campaigning on an anti-migrant ticket but it was damaged by political turmoil following the 2018 slayings of an investigative journalist and his fiancée.

The killings of journalist Jan Kuciak and his fiancée, Martina Kusnirova, triggered major street protests and a political crisis that led to the collapse of Fico's three-party coalition government. Kuciak had been writing about alleged ties between the Italian mafia and people close to Fico when he was killed and also wrote about corruption scandals linked to Fico's party. A new cabinet was made up of ministers from the same three parties. "This was a clear vote against corruption practices of the ruling party, against the links between politicians and semi-mafia in this country and the quest for rule of law," said Olga Gyarfasova, an analyst from Comenius University in Bratislava.

In a further blow to Smer, its two current coalition partners, the ultra-nationalist Slovak National Party and a party of ethnic Hungar-

ians, didn't win any seats in Parliament.

Matovic is expected to govern with the pro-business Freedom and Solidarity party, which captured 6.2% support and 13 seats and the conservative For People established by former President Andrej Kiska that finished with 5.8% of the vote and 12 seats.

Although the three parties would have a majority with 78 seats, Matovic said he also wanted to rule with Le Pen's ally, We Are Family, a populist right-wing group that placed third in Saturday's vote with 8.2% support and 17 seats.

Matovic is a skilled politician who knows how to make news.

In January, he traveled to an upscale neighborhood in Cannes, France, where he placed a poster that read "the property of Slovakia" in front of a luxurious villa that belongs to Jan Pociatek, Fico's former finance minister. Matovic accused Pociatek of corruption, saying he could never earn so much money to afford the villa. Pociatek denied wrongdoing. A video of the event went viral on social media. □



**Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson gestures during a visit to the Connection, a homelessness centre, at St Martins in the Fields, London, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020.**

Associated press

## Britain's health service not for sale in US free-trade talks

**LONDON (AP)** — Any free-trade deal with the United States must protect Britain's cherished National Health Service, Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government declared Sunday as it published an outline of its negotiating objectives for the transatlantic deal. The British government estimates its economy will get a 3.4 billion-pound (\$4.3 billion) boost and trade between the close allies will increase by 15.3 billion pounds (\$19.6 billion) if trade barriers between the United Kingdom and the United States are removed. Talks are scheduled to start later this month.

"We have the best negotiators in the business and of course, we're going to drive a hard bargain to boost British industry," Johnson said. "Trading Scottish smoked salmon for Stetson hats, we will deliver lower prices and more choice for our shoppers."

Among objectives outlined Sunday were a clear statement saying that British negotiators would protect the state-funded National Health Service.

"The NHS is not for sale and the government is committed to the guiding principles of the NHS — that it is universal and free at the point of use," the government statement said.

Talks with the United States come as London is also trying to negotiate the terms of a new trade relationship with the European Union following its Brexit departure from the bloc earlier this year.

Johnson last year acknowledged that hammering out a mutually acceptable deal with President Donald Trump's administration would be tricky.

"I know that you guys are pretty tough negotiators," Johnson told U.S. Vice President Mike Pence when they met last year in London. "So we're going to work very hard to make sure that that free trade deal is one that works for all sides." □

# Afghan peace deal hits first snag over prisoner releases

By KATHY GANNON

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— Afghanistan's president said Sunday that he will not free thousands of Taliban prisoners ahead of all-Afghan power-sharing talks set for next week, publicly disagreeing with a timetable for a speedy prisoner release laid out just a day earlier in a U.S.-Taliban peace agreement.

President Ashraf Ghani's comments pointed to the first hitch in implementing the fragile deal, which is aimed at ending America's longest war after more than 18 years and getting rival Afghan factions to agree on their country's future.

Still, the U.S. has said a planned U.S. troop withdrawal over the next 14 months is linked to the Taliban's counter-terrorism performance, not to progress in intra-Afghan talks.

Washington's Peace Envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad, who served as America's first ambassador to Afghanistan after the 2001 U.S. invasion, spent the past 17 months running on-again,



Afghan President Ashraf Ghani speaks during a news conference at the presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, March, 1, 2020.

off-again talks with the Taliban to hammer out the agreement.

The U.S.-Taliban deal signed Saturday in the Middle Eastern State of Qatar envisions the release of up to 5,000 Taliban prisoners by the Afghan government ahead of talks between Afghan factions meant to begin March 10 in the Norwegian capital of Oslo. The Taliban would release up to 1,000 prisoners.

Ghani told a news conference in the Afghan capital of Kabul on Sunday that this

wasn't a promise the United States could make. He said the release of any prisoners was a decision for his government to take and that he wasn't ready to release prisoners before the start of negotiations.

The U.S.-Taliban deal is seen as a historic opportunity to extricate the United States from Afghanistan, a nation convulsed by conflict since the Soviet invasion in December 1979. Yet it could also unravel quickly, particularly if the Taliban fail to deliver on a promise that

no terror attacks would be launched from Afghan soil. The intra-Afghan talks between squabbling political factions and rival Taliban in Afghanistan are even more intricate — even if a potential failure might not slow the withdrawal of American forces.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said he considered a prisoner exchange an important confidence-building measure. "Everything is interconnected," he said Sunday about the agreement's 14-month timeframe.

"The prisoner exchange will be one of the first confidence-building measures, so it will remain a very critical step that we need to push forward," he added.

U.S. officials, travelling with Secretary of State Pompeo on his return to America, noted that the agreement stipulates "up to" 5,000 prisoners would be released, without referring specifically to Ghani's statements. President Donald Trump told reporters Saturday at

the White House that he will be "meeting personally with Taliban leaders in the not-too-distant future," and described the group as "tired of war."

He did not say where or why he plans to meet with Taliban leaders. He said he thinks they are serious about the deal they signed but warned that if it fails, the U.S. could restart combat. "We think we'll be successful in the end," he said, referring to all-Afghan peace talks and a final U.S. exit.

But he also warned: "If bad things happen, we'll go back" in with military firepower. Afghans in eastern Nangarhar posted pictures of dozens of men dancing in the street to celebrate the signing. In eastern Khost province, a Taliban stronghold, the night sky was alight with red tracer bullets fired by celebrating residents. Footballers in southern Helmand Province, also a Taliban stronghold that has seen heavy violence, began a three-day soccer tournament to celebrate the signing. □

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## China uses dairy factory to show it's getting back to work

By SAM McNEIL

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — As milk bottles and yogurt six-packs zipped past on a conveyor belt at a state-owned dairy, reporters heard a sales pitch from a Communist Party official: China Inc. has reopened for business.

The government invited reporters to a Beijing factory of China Mengniu Dairy Co. Ltd. this week to see how companies are getting back to work after unprecedented anti-virus measures shut down much of the world's second-biggest economy.

It also brought them to see a power plant.

The ruling party is striving to restore public and business confidence and avert a deeper economic downturn and politically risky job losses after weeks of disruptions due to the viral



In this Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020, photo, a worker stands near a picture showing Chinese President Xi Jinping visiting the Mengniu dairy factory in Beijing.

Associated Press

outbreak that has sickened more than 82,000 people worldwide and killed more than 2,800. Mengniu's sales fell 20% in February due to travel and other anti-disease controls, but its sales of milk, yoghurt and other dairy products are back to

80% of normal levels and production is at 70%, said Meng Fanjie, of Mengniu's Party Work Department. "Also there is an opportunity brought by the virus outbreak," he said. "People want to improve immunity by eating more dairy." □

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## Officials say Yemen's rebels seize strategic northern city

By MAGGIE MICHAEL and  
SAMY MAGDY

Associated Press

**CAIRO (AP)** — Yemen's Houthi rebels wrested control of the strategic northern city of Hazm, officials on both sides of the conflict said Sunday, a major blow to the internationally recognized government backed by Saudi Arabia.

Capturing the capital of Jawf province after weeks of fighting could pave the way for the rebels to move toward the central province of Marib, one of the shrinking safe spots for those opposing the Houthis in northern Yemen. It also could cause a new wave of displacement in the war-torn country.

Yemen, the Arab world's poorest nation, has been convulsed by civil war since 2014. That's when the Iran-backed Houthis took control of the country's north including the capital, Sanaa. A Saudi-led military coalition intervened against the Houthis the following year. Despite relentless Saudi airstrikes and a blockade of Yemen, the war has ground to a stalemate.

The conflict has killed over 10,000 people and created the world's worst humanitarian crisis, leaving millions suffering from food and medical care shortages and pushing the country to the brink of famine last year. A Houthi official said Sunday that the Shiite group had pushed government forces out of Hazm and were "now chasing them in its outskirts."



Tribesmen loyal to the Houthi rebels chant slogans as they hold their weapons during a gathering aimed at mobilizing more fighters for the Houthi movement in Sanaa, Yemen, Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020.

Associated Press

Two government officials confirmed the city had fallen, but said government forces aided by Saudi coalition airstrikes were attempting to push back.

All the officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media. The coalition spokesman's office said their "operations" in Jawf "are still ongoing," but did not elaborate. The Houthi-run al-Masirah satellite TV reported that the coalition carried out at least three airstrikes in Jawf on Sunday.

The rebels earlier this year seized a key supply line linking Marib with Jawf provinces, located along the border with Saudi Arabia. They also took control of the strategic district of Nehm, some 60 kilometers (37 miles) northeast of the rebel-held capital Sanaa.

"With the seizure of Hazm, the entire Jawf (province) is now considered in their hands, and this would en-

able them to expand to Marib and even try to take over the south," said Fatima al-Asrar, a non-resident scholar at the Washington-based Middle East Institute. She said Houthi advances would increase the vulnerability of both civilians, including tribes, allied with the Saudi-backed government of Yemen's president, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

At least 1,400 families, who were displaced into the district of Gail in Jawf province had moved to Hazm earlier this month. "Now thousands more are expected to leave their homes" because of the Houthi advance, she said.

Oil-rich Jawf province is where the Houthis shot down a coalition warplane last month, raising alarm among the Saudi-led camp that the rebels are acquiring advanced weaponry apparently from Iran, which has long denied arming the Houthis. □

## Thousands bury Hezbollah fighters killed in Syria's Idlib



Mourners carry the coffin of a Hezbollah fighter who was killed in Syria's northwestern Idlib region, during a funeral for him and four comrades in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, Sunday, March 1, 2020.

Associated Press

By HASSAN AMMAR  
Associated Press

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Thousands of mourners thronged the coffins of five fighters from the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, whose funeral was held Sunday in southern Beirut after they were killed in neighboring Syria's northwestern Idlib region. The fighters were among at least eight Hezbollah members who died Friday in Turkish attacks amid fierce fighting between Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces and Turkish troops and allied militia-men. The deaths marked the highest for Hezbollah in Syria in years. Hezbollah sent thousands of its battle-hardened fighters into Syria in 2012, a year after the country's conflict began. They've been helping Assad's forces win major battles against rebels, and along with Russian air power

er have turned the tide of the war. Over the past two years, as the security situation stabilized in many areas, Hezbollah withdrew much of its forces, leaving only a few hundred fighters in several areas across the war-torn country.

The funeral was held in Beirut's southern district of Ghobeiri. A crowd of a few thousand people — relatives and supporters — walked behind five coffins wrapped in yellow Hezbollah flags amid cries of "Allahu Akbar," meaning "God is great." Heavy gunfire rang out as supporters fired in the air, a traditional sign of mourning. At least five people were seen being taken on stretchers after they fainted, apparently overwhelmed by emotion. It was not clear exactly how many Hezbollah fighters were killed in Friday's attacks in Idlib. □

# Socialist hardliner aims gun on Guaidó march in Venezuela

Associated Press

**CARACAS, Venezuela**

**(AP)** — Socialist hardliners in Venezuela opened fire during a march headed by Juan Guaidó, injuring a 16-year-old demonstrator and adding to tensions in the country as the opposition leader seeks to revive his campaign to oust Nicolás Maduro.

A photo of the confrontation shows a masked man brandishing a pistol pointed toward a group of opposition activists, including Guaidó, who can be seen staring down the unidentified man.

The confusing incident Saturday in the central city of Barquisimeto is believed to be the first time pro-government vigilantes known as colectivos have aimed a weapon at Guaidó, who the U.S. and more than 50 other countries recognize as Venezuela's rightful leader following Maduro's re-election in 2018 in a race the opposition says was marred by irregularities.

The city's former mayor and opposition activist Alfredo Ramos said the marchers led by Guaidó were "ambushed" by about 200 colectivo members and government security forces loyal to Maduro.



In this photo released by the Juan Guaidó's Press Office, an unidentified man aims a gun at a crowd as opposition leader Juan Guaidó, center right, meets with supporters during a rally in Barquisimeto, Venezuela, Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020.

Associated Press

Ramos said worse bloodshed was avoided because the unidentified man did not open fire at that moment.

But later, as the crowd swelled, a 16-year-old demonstrator was shot in the leg and several others were roughed up as the colectivos harassed participants. "Courage and strength," Guaidó said in a conversation with the injured activist that was videotaped by his

aides while their caravan headed back to Caracas. "We're going to achieve freedom for our country." Later, the opposition leader reiterated a call for supporters to take to the streets on March 10. "It's time to increase decisively and without fear the actions and pressure on the tyranny headed by Maduro," he said in a statement.

There was no immediate

comment from the Maduro government.

The AP was not present at the rally so was unable to verify the lawmakers' account. The photo of the gunman aiming at Guaidó was provided to The Associated Press by the opposition leader's team.

An opposition lawmaker from the region, Daniel Antequera, said the march through poor neighborhoods drew surprisingly

strong support. It lasted about an hour with the armed groups meeting them at various points, he said. They pressed on believing the gunfire was going into the air — until learning that the teen was shot. "They won't be able to stop an entire country that is starving and that understands the only way to progress is through democracy and liberty," said Antequera, who visited the boy in the hospital.

Dimitris Pantoulas, a Caracas-based political analyst, said the incident underscores the forceful role being played in Venezuela by the colectivos.

As political turmoil has swept over Venezuela the past year, armed groups loyal to Maduro have been increasingly deployed by a government determined to resist domestic opposition and mounting international pressure, Pantoulas said.

"This is a tactic by the government to use violence by colectivos to intimidate its opponents," said Pantoulas. "Every day the colectivos are feeling stronger inside the Maduro government. One day, the situation could easily get out of hand and lead to bloodshed." □

## El Salvador reconciliation law vetoed over impunity fears

By **MARCOS ALEMÁN**

Associated Press

**SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador**

**(AP)** — President Nayib Bukele said Friday he has vetoed a national reconciliation bill approved earlier this week by lawmakers, arguing that it would result in impunity for crimes against humanity from El Salvador's 1980-1992 civil war.

In a news conference at the presidential residence, Bukele said he would not support any measure that doesn't contain three fundamental elements: truth, justice and reparations.

"This Special Law for Transitional Justice, Reparation and National Reconciliation is a fraud of a



El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele, accompanied by members of the armed forces, speaks to his supporters outside Congress in San Salvador, El Salvador, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020.

Associated Press

law beginning with its very name, because it is simply an amnesty to make punishments for those who committed war crimes go away," Bukele said.

He added that he considers it "de facto impunity,"

unconstitutional and in violation of international treaties and accords.

The law was backed by 44 deputies in the 84-seat Legislative Assembly. Eleven voted against it and one deputy abstained. □

## Protesting gender violence, activists hold school buildings

By **MARIA VERZA**

Associated Press

**MEXICO CITY** **(AP)** —

Anger at increasing violence against women — and at seeing abusers go unpunished — has led students to take over at least 10 schools or departments at Latin America's largest university.

The young women occupying the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the National Autonomous University have blockaded the doors and armed themselves with metal bars against possible intruders. So far, however, authorities have made no move to oust them.

The on-and-off occupation, which began in October, has disrupted classes, frustrating some other students. But they have also won some concessions from university administrators, who on Friday announced plans to get up special units to handle complaints of gender violence in each department and to create a coordinator to oversee the issue.

Feminist slogans are spray painted on the walls and the women sleep on couches pulled from faculty offices. Well-wishers have donated food — sandwiches, cookies, instant soup. □

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"My goal was to do real estate in a different way when I established this company June 1st 2009. Not from the perspective of only selling, but to look for the perfect match between dream house and client. My philosophy is: it will only work when all involved are happy and connected by that personal touch," says Randolph Arends, owner of Aruba Living Today. Together with his business partner Berend Prenger and a dedicated team they practice what they preach: mediation in Real Estate with a high service level. "I am proud to state that so far all of my clients stayed with us. I am not selling a fairytale, in ten years of course there were challenges too but it is about how you handle those. It's like with family, you stick together with ups and downs. But the love is there."

### All Happens Here

Aruba Living Today is located in an authentic Aruban house, welcoming you in a warm ambiance that emphasizes the philosophy of connecting. There are candles, Buddha ornaments, magazines, and a homey ambiance for you to sit and talk about your dream house or investment. "We are a one stop shopping point. We are not only selling



a house, we take all out of your hands. It is a totally different approach that is not pushy, but showing you we do care that you feel at home here on our island. We know the island and its ups and downs. We guide you through the full process in order for you to make a proper decision," says Berend.

### What Do We Do

Services offered by Aruba Living Today are House and Land Sales, Rentals, Investments, Property Management, Vacation Rental, Mortgages, Insurances, Maintenance, Assist in Arrangements for Notary and Utilities, Guiding Bureaucracy Process and Assisting in Import of Furniture. Berend is also a certified appraiser within the Dutch Kingdom meaning he does your appraisal report that is accepted by all banks and he delivers within three days. "Exceptional for Aruba. This definitely speeds up the process of buying," he says. This different approach of real estate is what sets Aruba Living Today apart and is also the reason why Randolph calls himself a property mediator instead of a real estate broker. "The personal touch is essential to me. I am stepping aside of the image that real estate brokers are only in for the commission. This image does not fit me at all, I am in for my passion and I can only do this from the heart."

Aruba Living Today caters for both local and foreign market divided into 40% local buyers and 60% foreign buyers. "Our customers come from Holland, Belgium, Norway, Germany, UK, Russia, Latin America, United States and Canada. We are widely covered and thus provable good with different cultures, also we speak four languages." Besides that Aruba Living Today is open to every budget, they have listings for all category buyers. As a member of the Aruban Real Estate Association they are listed also on the website [www.arubalisting.com](http://www.arubalisting.com) within a group of 20 of the most advanced realtors on the island. Aruba Living Today is featured as well on Home & Garden TV and you can find them on House Hunters, Social Media under Aruba Living Today and of course in Aruba Today's newspaper. □



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## Lui Bee Farm Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Honey bees wild and domestic perform about 80 percent of all pollination worldwide. A single bee colony can pollinate 300 million flowers each day. Grains are primarily pollinated by the

wind, but fruits, nuts and vegetables are pollinated by bees. Seventy out of the top 100 human food crops — which supply about 90 percent of the world's nutrition — are pollinated by bees.

Seeing the importance of saving the bees Aruba is not staying behind. We have many people interested in saving and protecting these bees. Many are practicing Apiculture which consists of saving



and protecting the bees with the sole purpose to produce honey locally. One of these persons is the well-known on the island Luis Winterdaal, founder of Lui Bee Farm Aruba.

Luis Winterdaal was born and raised in Aruba on October 10th 1954 in the town of Savaneta. A person with great love for the nature and all animals, Luis started working with bees when he was only 15 years old. At that time there was no special equipment to use when working with bees such as face masks and smokers. Luis used to make his own face protection equipment from wired screens sewed to a t-shirt. He also cut out the legs of his jeans to use them to protect his arms and as smoker he used cookie cans.

11 years ago Luis met three young people who love bees and saw the importance that these bees have for humanity: Giles, Jourdan and Suyen. With much passion and all the patience in the world Luis taught these three youngsters everything they needed to know about bees. From there started the idea of the farm. To save and protect these bees. They all try to demonstrate and teach the people of Aruba the importance these bees have. Their vision is to save as much bees as possible from being killed. For more than 45 years Luis has

been helping out people of Aruba to solve any type of bee problems at their homes. Luis together with Giles, Jourdan and Suyen have been all over the island bringing their passion and knowledge in order to save these bees.

### Organic honey

At Lui Bee farm Aruba they have special bee boxes which are filled with bees that were rescued from different houses and locations all around the island. Not always when rescuing bees you will find honey. Sometimes you will find the wax with only baby bees and if you are lucky you will find wax filled with honey. The honey from the boxes at their location are not being emptied every time. Why? Because of the lack of rain on the island, most of the time it's very dry and this can be very stressful for the bees. Why the stress? Because they have to make new wax and also in such dry period they use honey to feed themselves to survive. Honey that they produce and sell at the farm does not contain any chemicals. Their honey goes directly from the wax to the bottles. The whole process takes place at their own facility. You will encounter all types of color of honey on the farm from light to black honey.



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## Lui Bee Farm Aruba



Continued from Page 14

Since they depend very much on the water/rain for these bees to survive the production of see is not consistent. Lui Bee Farm wishes to someday be able to produce enough honey to distribute to the whole island. Honey is very beneficial to your overall health and is very important for the human being. Honey products are daily used for as medicine and in many beauty products.

Most of the time bees rescued from houses are in swarm or have been there for years. Common places to find bees are: under the roof, on the roof, ceiling, in trees, in tires, on the walls, bird cages, under containers even in septic tanks anywhere you can think of is possible. They have even been called several times by hotels to remove hives from a bedroom or from the rooftop.



At Lui Bee Farm they know how important these bees are for our environment therefore when assisting at removing these hives they will stay there until they find the 'queen'. She naturally is the most important for the production of the honey. Whenever they find her their job is done.

According to Luis bees in Aruba are not aggressive. If you leave them alone and don't disturb them they won't attack you. Therefore Lui Bee Farm kindly requests you to help the bees by putting water around the house. Especially during dry seasons. These bees need as much flowers and water as possible in order to survive. Please do not kill them! To Lui Bee Farm a world without bees is like a desert without water. ☐

For more information call them at +297 593-6694, email [luibeefarmaruba@gmail.com](mailto:luibeefarmaruba@gmail.com) or check their Facebook page Lui Bee Farm Aruba or follow them on Instagram @luibeefarmaruba.



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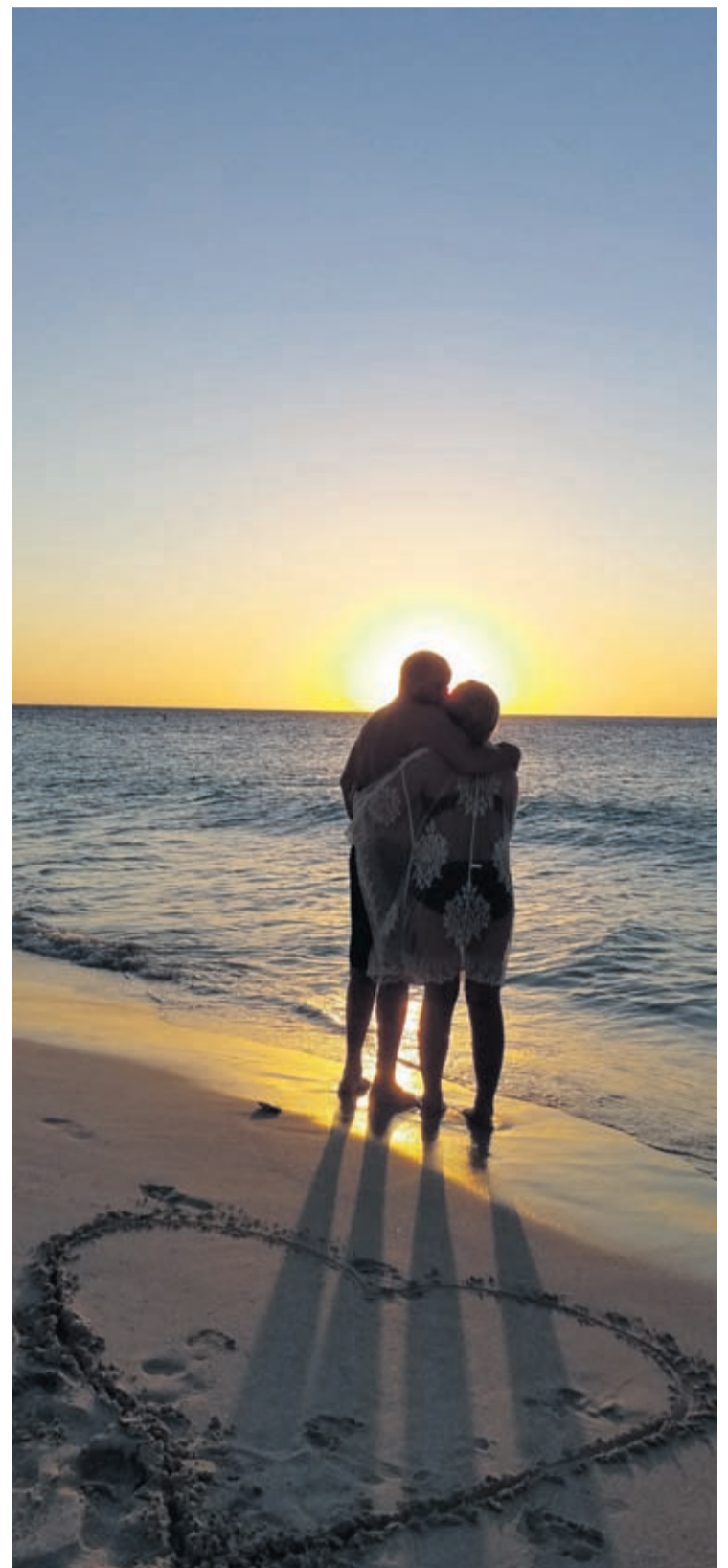
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Last but not least: check

out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today's newspaper we received a great picture from **Jamie plus Cassy equals Bella and Willy**. They wrote:

**Aruba to me is to finally feel like being in PARADISE!** ☐



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# Hotel Hustle

## Hotel Hustle

Column by: Shanella Pantophlet

### A shared goal

**ORANJESTAD —** One of the most essential things in any relationship, including a business relationship is to have shared goals. It's the only way to ensure long term success. This is especially true in timeshare resorts as we are in the unique position where the people we answer to are our Members, represented by a Board of Directors. Problem is, as I've mentioned in a previous article, not everyone on the Board may have a background in hospitality.

There's a juxtaposition there, the Board's primary objective is the owners and making sure decisions are made in their best interest to protect their investment. The management team's primary objective is to run the resort in such a manner as to keep it on course and solvent. Most of the time the Board goals and management goals align and where they differ, the Board gives management enough slack, because they trust the decisions being made.



However there have been instances both in the past and even fairly recently where the two entities have not seen eye to eye and it's lead to massive shakeups at resorts. Recently an article came out featuring an anonymous source, who called out a lot of practices that happen industry wide among timeshares. One of the points anonymous made is that there are Boards that come together and think they know everything and instead of communicating with their management and having a shared dialogue they tend to become dictators.

Management could be sounding the alarm, but at the end of the day they are bound by the articles of association or the club rules etc. The Board of directors may be the captains,

but Management is the one at the helm, if they see an iceberg it's their job to advise and navigate, even if the new route may take a bit longer to get to the destination. If the captain takes the helm and decides to stay on course despite the warnings and advice of the helmsman the entire ship could sink and for what? Cost savings?

The point of the shared goal is to avoid the ship sinking. Both parties taking responsibility when needed and deferring to each other on matters. Management, with all their years of hospitality insights should be the ones handling the business aspect and as long as everything is running smoothly, the accounts are in balance and bills are being paid, then there should be little to no need for Board interfer-

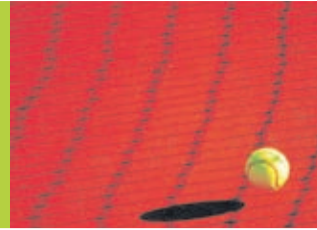
ence. Of course there are times where shady dealings may be happening and that's where the Board comes in as a means to protect the membership and weed out anyone involved in those dealings that may negatively affect the reputation of their beloved resort.

Everyone has their roles to play, but from the outset it needs to be clear who bares what function. This relationship only works if there is mutual respect, communication and a common goal. A standard that should be set from day one by either the new Board or the new management team. At the end of the day we are all in this together and the success and longevity of our business depends on the synergistic relationship between the Board and the management team. □



Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. And together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle.

# SPORTS



## U.S.-based pro sports leagues monitoring coronavirus outbreak

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**  
AP Sports Writer

Major North American professional sports leagues are talking to health officials and informing teams about the coronavirus outbreak that has led to the first reported death in the U.S. Officials from the National Basketball Association, National Hockey League and Major League Baseball say they are all consulting with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other organizations on a regular basis about COVID-19. Washington State reported Saturday that a man in his 50s died from the virus. There are no immediate plans to cancel or postpone games or have them held in empty stadiums or arenas. Some of those contingencies have been taken in other countries, including Italy, where soccer matches were postponed until May.

Pro sports in the U.S. for now are going on as scheduled, though leagues are closely monitoring the situation. The NBA and NHL are in their regular seasons and MLB in spring training in Arizona and Florida with Opening Day less than a month away.

"The health and safety of our employees, teams, players and fans is paramount," the NBA said in a statement. "We are coordinating with our teams and consulting with the CDC and infectious disease specialists on the coronavirus and continue to monitor the situation closely."

Continued on Page 22

# CLUB HEAD

## Alex Bowman dominates en route to Auto Club win

Alex Bowman celebrates on the roof of his race car after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race Sunday, March 1, 2020 in Fontana, Calif.

Associated Press  
Page 23



## Antetokounmpo's 41 points lift Bucks past Hornets 93-85

By STEVE REED  
AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —

Giannis Antetokounmpo caught the ball on the baseline with 2:39 left in the game, turned and faded away to bury a 9-foot jumper over the outstretched hands of Miles Bridges. Bridges shook his head in disbelief as he ran back down the court, knowing there was nothing more he could have done to prevent the reigning MVP from scoring.

"It's a shot I feel comfortable taking," Antetokounmpo said. "I have been working on it since year three. Some nights I feel good and have the extra pep in my step. As long as I get it high enough and it goes over the rim it's a good shot."

Antetokounmpo had plenty of pep in his step, scoring 41 points — including the last nine for his team — to go along with 20 rebounds and six assists and helping the Milwaukee Bucks to their sixth straight win, 93-85 over the Charlotte Hornets on Sunday.

Brook Lopez added 16 points and seven rebounds for the Bucks, who've won 20 of their last 22 games. Milwaukee's run of scoring 100 points or more in 83 straight games ended, but it still improved to a league-best 52-8 on the season.

Antetokounmpo scored in almost every way imaginable — on pick-and-rolls, fast-break dunks, drives to the basket and, of course, the fadeaway jumper.

"He's tough to stop when he's making shots like that," Bridges said. "It's kind of like a Dirk (Nowitzki) shot. He's 7-foot almost and his release is so high it's tough to block him. I felt like my arm was right there."

Lopez called Antetokounmpo's work ethic "incredible."

The Bucks led by two entering the fourth quarter after turning the ball over 15 times in the first three quarters. Charlotte hung tough until the final two minutes, when Antetokounmpo took over. After the base-

line jumper, he grabbed an offensive rebound off a missed 3-pointer and was fouled, converting both free throws to push the lead to seven. Then he scored on a driving layup with 1:09 left, sending the majority of the crowd streaming to the exits. Devonte Graham had 17 points and Willy Hernangomez added 10 points and 13 rebounds to lead the Hornets, who were coming off a victory at defending champion Toronto on Thursday night.

The Hornets haven't drawn many fans this year, but they showed up in droves to watch the candidate for a second straight MVP — and he put on quite a show. With six minutes left and the Bucks leading

by one, Antetokounmpo drove down the middle of the lane, did a spin move to shake Bismack Biyombo and dunked in between two defenders, drawing a foul for a three-point play.

### TIP-INS

Marvin Williams, who was released by the Hornets last month and signed with Milwaukee, received a warm ovation when he checked into the game in the first quarter. ... Wesley Matthews received a technical foul in the fourth quarter after arguing a call. ... Hip-hop artist Da Baby attended the game. ... Graham and Terry Rozier were a combined 3 of 11 from 3-point range. The Hornets were 8 of 35 from beyond the arc.



Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo, right, looks to drive against Charlotte Hornets forward P.J. Washington in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday, March 1, 2020.

Associated Press

### HORNETS DEFENSE

Charlotte took pride in becoming the first team this season to hold Milwaukee to double digits in points.

"I'm really pleased with where we're at defensively," Hornets coach James Borrego said. "We're getting better. Obviously, I said this before the game, our

personnel, our attention to detail and the pride we're taking on the defensive end is giving us a shot every night. Heck of an effort defensively tonight. That's a hell of a team over there offensively. I thought we made them work for everything and we made them work every possession." □

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# Sungjae Im wins Honda Classic for 1st PGA Tour title

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Sports Writer

**PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP)** — Moments after getting his first career PGA Tour win, Sungjae Im took a moment to reflect on what it means.

Not for himself — for his homeland, and for those dealing with a virus that has the world on edge.

The 21-year-old South Korean started fast and finished stronger Sunday, winning The Honda Classic by one shot over Mackenzie Hughes and two over Tommy Fleetwood for his first victory in 50 tries on tour.

But before he could be whisked back to the course to collect the trophy, Im made sure to speak out about the coronavirus and tell those in South Korea — where nearly 4,000 cases have been confirmed — that he was thinking of them.

"Over in Korea right now, I know a lot of people are dealing with the coronavirus," Im said. "And it's kind of a huge deal with everybody. But I'm just glad as a Korean player that I can deliver some good news to the countrymen back home ... to do something for the country and make



Sungjae Im of South Korea holds the trophy after winning the Honda Classic golf tournament, Sunday, March 1, 2020, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

everybody proud."

Im shot a 4-under 66 on Sunday, finishing at 6 under to match the second-highest winning score since the Honda moved to PGA National in 2007. He was

the tour's rookie of the year last season, plus has played more tournaments and more rounds than anyone since the 2018-19 season began nearly a year and a half ago.

And now, he's a winner, picking up \$1.26 million this week and becoming the Honda's 10th international champion in the last 16 seasons.

Im birdied four of his first five holes, then birdied two of the final four — after sticking tee shots on the tough par-3 15 and 17th holes within 8 feet both times — to finish off the victory.

Hughes, a Canadian who made the cut on the number Friday, shot his second consecutive 66. Playing alongside Im, he was part of some serious fireworks on the last two holes and missed a birdie putt at the par-5 finishing hole that would have gotten him into a tie for the top spot.

"I love being in the mix," Hughes said. "I love having a chance to win, and yeah, it sucks to come up one short, to fight that hard all day. I just kind of thought I was going to do it. But still

proud of the way I fought this week."

Fleetwood (71) was alone in third and is still seeking his first PGA Tour win. He started the day one shot clear of the field and started birdie-birdie to get to 7 under at that point — matching what was the low score in relation to par of the week.

Then PGA National did what it usually does, that being not let anyone run away from the pack.

Fleetwood made bogey on the par-4 6th and couldn't get up and down from a greenside bunker on the par-4 8th, giving back what was left of his lead at that point. Fleetwood birdied the par-3 17th to get within one, but his approach at the par-5 finishing hole found the water to all but seal his fate.

"I was going well," Fleetwood said. "My swing wasn't there today. It wasn't like a comfortable day ... things weren't quite there, but I hung in well."

Once Fleetwood's attempt at a miracle hole-out after a drop from 120 yards on 18 didn't fall, Im could fi-

nally exhale as the winner. He hugged his caddie in the locker room, where he watched the last 20 minutes or so on a monitor.

"I've been in this spot many times. ... I just felt like the experience really helped," Im said through a translator. Some of Im's best moments have come when no one has been looking.

He was third at the Zozo Championship in Japan last October, a finish totally overshadowed by Tiger Woods tying the PGA Tour record of 82 career victories. And in November he went 3-1-1 to tie for the best showing by a player on the International team at the Presidents Cup, but the U.S. team captained by Woods rallied in singles on the final day to win the trophy at Royal Melbourne. But this time, he was on center stage and embraced the moment.

Hughes and Im went to the par-3 17th green — the end of the "Bear Trap" three-hole stretch — in wildly different spots. Im stuck his tee ball to just inside of 8 feet, while Hughes had nearly 55 feet left from above the hole. □

## Valimaki takes 1st title at Oman Open after winning playoff

**MUSCAT, Oman (AP)** —

Sami Valimaki of Finland overcame difficult conditions to win the Oman Open on Sunday after beating South African Brandon Stone in a playoff in the third edition of the European Tour event. Valimaki and Stone finished joint top on 13-under 275 after both shot 2-under 70s in the final round played on a gusty day. Both made par on the first two extra holes played on the par-4 18th before Stone faltered with a bogey on their third time around. The Finn held his nerve to make par and claim his

first career tour victory.

The final round began with a crowded leaderboard as six players tied for the overnight lead with Joost Luiten among them looking to win his second title at the Al Mouj Golf club. The Dutchman fell out of contention after shooting a 3-over 75 to finish joint tenth with an 8-under 280.

Adrien Saddier (69) of France finished a shot back of the leaders on 12-under 276 in third with Italy's Guido Migliozzi (71) and Finland's Mikko Korhonen (72) rounding out the top five another shot back. □

## Flyers extend win streak to 6 with 5-3 win over Rangers

By **SIMMI BUTTAR**  
AP Sports Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Carter Hart and a potent power play kept the Philadelphia Flyers climbing in the play-off race.

Hart made 23 saves and the surging Flyers extended their winning streak to a season-high six games with a 5-3 victory over the New York Rangers on Sunday. Matt Niskanen, Sean Couturier and Travis Konecny each scored power-play goals. Michael Raffl scored short-handed and Derek Grant also tallied for the Flyers, who swept a home-and-home series against the Rangers after winning 5-2 on Friday night.

"We knew they were going to come out hard and try and respond here to the game on Friday," Hart said. "We just had to stick to our plan, stick to the way we play and just compete."

The Flyers' run combined with the Penguins' six-game slide has moved Philadelphia into second place in the Metropolitan Division.

"Metro is a tough division," Flyers forward Kevin Hayes said. "And four points on the weekend against a division rival is huge."

Henrik Lundqvist made his first start since Feb. 3 and made 21 saves for New York.

"It's pretty tough," Lundqvist said. "I hadn't played in a long time. Some sloppy

penalties cost us. And their power play is really good. They had so many odd-man rushes."

Mika Zibanejad scored two power-play goals and Pavel Buchnevich also tallied on the man advantage for the Rangers. Zibanejad has a career-high 32 goals on the season.

The Rangers' offense got off to a slow start in their first full game since forward Chris Kreider broke his foot while blocking a shot in the first period of Friday's loss in Philadelphia. Kreider had just signed a seven-year contract reportedly worth \$45 million on Monday, the day of the league's trade deadline.

The Flyers dominated the first period with two power-play goals and added a short-handed one late.

After the Rangers committed an early penalty, Travis Sanheim shot from the point. Nicolas Aubé-Kubel's rebound attempt hit the post and Niskanen scored into an open net for his eighth of the season at 1:52.

About 10 minutes later on the Flyers' next man advantage, Konecny sent a pass from the left circle across to Jakub Voracek. Lundqvist made the initial save, but the rebound came out to Couturier, who scored his 21st of the season at 11:19.

The Flyers closed out the period with a 3-0 lead when



Philadelphia Flyers goaltender Carter Hart itches the puck during the second period of the NHL hockey game against the New York Rangers, Sunday, March 1, 2020, in New York.

Associated Press

Raffl scored his seventh at 17:53. Raffl checked Ryan Strome to get the puck out of the Flyers zone. Grant took the loose puck and skated down the right side and slid a pass to Raffl, who beat Lundqvist with a backhand.

Grant made it 4-0 early in the second when he took a loose puck near center ice, skated toward the net and also beat Lundqvist with a backhand for his 15th at 1:23.

The Rangers got on the board in the second period with Zibanejad's first power-play score. Artemi Panarin sent a nice centering pass to Zibanejad, who redirected it into the net at 12:34.

The Flyers regained their four-goal lead three minutes later with their third power-play goal.

After the Flyers won the faceoff in the Rangers zone,

Voracek sent a pass toward the net that was deflected in by Konecny for his 23rd of the season.

"Our power play was clicking incredibly well," Flyers coach Alain Vigneault said. "I thought our PK at the beginning, we did a good job. "Our power play lately has been a big weapon for us. It's gotten big goals at big, big moments."

The Rangers added two goals on the man advantage in the third period. First, Buchnevich redirected a pass while in front at 5:33. A little more than seven minutes later, Zibanejad scored again on another assist from Panarin to make it 5-3.

"We didn't get off to a good start," Zibanejad said. "Then we give up one on our PP and we dig ourselves a hole."

"We have a lot of games

left. Obviously it wasn't good enough in some areas. We have to tighten things up and get to playing the way we can."

NOTES: Hayes and Vigneault were given a video tribute on the Madison Square Garden scoreboard during a stoppage in play midway through the first period. Both former Rangers are in their first seasons with Philadelphia. The was the Flyers' first visit to MSG this season. They'll return on April 1. ... Lundqvist's appearance was the 886th of his NHL career, tying Hall of Famer Tony Esposito for eighth all-time. ... Panarin extended his point streak to 13 games, which is a career high and the longest active point streak in the NHL. He is the first Ranger with 90 or more points in a season since Jaromir Jagr in 2006-07 (96). □

## Morris scores twice, defending champion Sounders beat Fire

By **TIM BOOTH**  
AP Sports Writer

**SEATTLE (AP)** — Jordan Morris scored two second-half goals, the second in the third minute of stoppage time, and the Seattle Sounders opened their MLS Cup defense with a 2-1 victory over the Chicago Fire on Sunday.

Seattle started the day parading the MLS championship trophy through the streets and unveiling its second championship

banner. But much of the opener had been a frustrating mix of being outplayed for stretches and missing several easy opportunities at goal.

Morris was the difference after coming on as a substitute at halftime.

His goal in the 62nd minute off a cross from Cristian Roldan pulled Seattle even.

The two connected again in stoppage time. Off a corner kick from João

Paulo, Roldan whipped a header across the front of goal and Morris was standing at the back post to nod it home.

Robert Berić scored in the 46th minute for Chicago. The Fire, in their first game under coach Raphael Wicky, had two first-half goals waved off because of offside.

Seattle also had a goal in the 56th minute overturned on video replay after Morris was ruled offside. □



Seattle Sounders defender Miguel Ibarra (11) leaps to head the ball against the Chicago Fire during the first half of an MLS soccer match, Sunday, March 1, 2020, in Seattle.

Associated Press



France's Alexis Pinturault competes during the super-G portion of an alpine ski, men's World Cup combined, in Hinterstoder, Austria, Sunday, March 1, 2020.

Associated Press

## Pinturault dominates Alpine combined race, wins season title

**HINTERSTODER, Austria (AP)**

— Alexis Pinturault dominated the last men's World Cup Alpine combined race of the season on Sunday to win his fourth career discipline title in style.

The Frenchman positioned himself for the triumph by finishing second in a shortened super-G portion in the morning of a cloudy day in Upper Austria.

He overcame a tricky moment halfway down his run as a gate broke when he passed it, but he managed to push it away before it could get under his skis.

The incident didn't slow him and Pinturault posted the fastest time to win the race by 0.99 seconds from Mauro Caviezel of Switzerland, who had led by 0.23 after the super-G run.

Norwegian skiers Aleksander Aamodt Kilde and Kjetil Jansrud were third and fourth, respectively.

Vincent Kriechmayr of Aus-

tria, who won a regular super-G here Saturday, finished 3.23 seconds behind outside the top 10.

Pinturault won two of three combined races this season and finished on 280 points, followed by Kilde on 172.

It was the 28th career win for Pinturault and ninth in a combined race, leaving him one short of the best mark in the discipline shared by Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg, Phil Mahre of the United States and Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland.

Pinturault was on the podium in nine of his last 10 combined races, including seven wins.

Pinturault is also one of the three remaining contenders for the overall title. He closed the gap to leader Kilde to 34 points, with Kilde's Norwegian teammate Henrik Kristoffersen 101 points back in third. □



In this Sept. 13, 2019, file photo, Shaun White competes during the Skate Park World Championship in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Associated Press

## Snowbound: White says he'll skip skateboard, stick to snow

By **EDDIE PELLIS**

**AP National Writer**

**VAIL, Colo. (AP)** — If the world sees Shaun White at an Olympics again, it will be in 2022, not later this year. The three-time snowboarding champion told The Associated Press that he is taking skateboarding off his plate and won't try to qualify for that sport's Olympic debut later this year in Tokyo.

"The decision became less about going for skate and more about, am I willing to walk away from snow?" White said this weekend while attending the Burton U.S. Open. "It just was going in that direction, and I didn't feel comfortable

with it and I can't wholeheartedly choose this path with what I've got going on snow."

White, who for years was every bit as successful a skateboarder as a snowboarder, had been dangling the possibility of joining the rare group of athletes to compete in both Winter and Summer Games.

He has long excelled in vert contests, which most resemble a snowboard halfpipe competition, but is not part of the Olympic program. He was trying to make the switch to park, which combine halfpipes and quarterpipes with stairs and rails. White headed

to Brazil last summer to compete at skateboarding world championships, where he finished 13th.

He thought about it for a while and realized the work he'd have to put in to compete against full-time skateboarders for an Olympic spot would compromise his chances of returning to the Winter Games in Beijing for a shot at a fourth gold medal.

"It doesn't mean I'm committed to going to China, but it doesn't feel too far-fetched for me," said the 33-year-old White. "I still feel great and that's where it got left for me. I'm dipping back into snow, and doing what feels right." □



Fans watch the Chicago Cubs play the Milwaukee Brewers during a spring training baseball game Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020, in Mesa, Ariz.

Associated Press

## pro sports leagues

Continued from Page 18

The new virus that first emerged in China in December has infected more than 85,000 people and caused more than 2,900 deaths. There have been 62 reported cases in the U.S., compared to 1,128 in Italy.

The NHL, which has seven teams based in Canada, is in contact with personnel from the CDC and Public Health Canada. Deputy

Commissioner Bill Daly said by email the NHL has not considered any cancellations. "We are in regular communication with our clubs on the issue and have passed along best practices being recommended by CDC and Public Health Canada medical experts," Daly said. "Most of these steps are common sense precautions, but there definitely involves consciousness raising."

An NHL spokesman added

the league "will implement all necessary safety measures as required." Teams have been getting information from the league about COVID-19 since late January.

MLB has also been actively monitoring the outbreak for some time and been in touch with the CDC and Health and Human Services. It is providing guidance to clubs, staff members and players that are mirror CDC recommendations. □



Ethiopia's Birhanu Legese crosses the finish line to win the Tokyo Marathon in Tokyo Sunday, March 1, 2020.

Associated Press

## Tokyo Marathon limited to elite runners over virus fears

**TOKYO (AP)** — Birhanu Legese of Ethiopia won Sunday's Tokyo Marathon, a race that was scaled back as part of Japan's efforts to combat the spread of the coronavirus.

Legese crossed the finish line with a time of 2 hours, 4 minutes and 15 seconds, 34 seconds ahead of Belgium's Bashir Abdi.

Sunday's race was expected to have 38,000 participants but was limited to elite runners due to concerns over the outbreak of the virus in Japan.

The race, which doubles up as an Olympic trial for Japanese marathon runners, was limited to just over 200 participants.

The Tokyo marathon is one of the biggest sporting events to be affected by the coronavirus. Authorities

in Japan have cancelled or postponed various other sporting events over concerns of spreading the virus.

Some spectators lined the streets of the Japanese capital but there were far fewer people watching than in past years. The government has asked people not to gather in large crowds.

Japan's domestic soccer league has cancelled games through the first half of March while Japanese baseball teams are playing exhibition games ahead of the regular season at empty stadiums.

With Tokyo set to host the 2020 Olympics, Japan has taken extensive steps in a bid to halt the spread of the outbreak.

Tokyo organizers and the IOC have repeatedly said the Tokyo Games will go ahead as scheduled and that they are following the advice of the World Health Organization.

The Olympics, which start on July 24, are set to gather 11,000 athletes in Tokyo, followed by the Paralympics beginning Aug. 25 with 4,000 athletes. □



Alex Bowman celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race Sunday, March 1, 2020, in Fontana, Calif.

Associated Press

## Bowman holds off Busch bros at Fontana for 2nd NASCAR win

By GREG BEACHAM  
AP Sports Writer

**FONTANA, Calif. (AP)** — Before Alex Bowman started looking for tattoo shops somewhere between Los Angeles and Phoenix, he celebrated a win that suggested even more permanent success ahead for the hard-working driver and his resurgent team.

Bowman raced to his second career NASCAR Cup Series victory Sunday, holding off Kyle and Kurt Busch at Fontana. The win was the culmination of a tremendously encouraging weekend for Bowman, who has run 156 Cup races without extraordinary success. He is in the final year of his contract with Hendrick Motorsports. But his No. 88 Chevrolet felt like the fastest car on this weathered, wide asphalt from the moment they unloaded — and Bowman decisively proved he knew what to do with it.

"We've been so good to start this season," Bowman said. "We've got to go win a bunch more, but man, it feels good to have one this early." Bowman's future might be uncertain, but he's fine with it after this dominant performance at Fontana. He led 110 laps and managed to stay out front after the final pit stops before cruising to the check-

ered flag in a smooth, fairly uneventful race featuring only one caution outside of the stage breaks.

"There's never a situation that I feel completely comfortable in," Bowman said. "I feel like if somebody doesn't want you driving their race car, you're not going to be driving it. Hendrick Motorsports is where I want to be. It's where I want to stay for the rest of my career. It's where I've always wanted to be. It is a contract year, but every year of my career has been a contract year."

The 26-year-old Arizonan grew up racing almost weekly in nearby Pomona. He collected the track's oversized surfboard trophy and partied with his team — but he also thought ahead with trepidation to the "88" tattoo he'll have to get soon because of a pact with Aaron Gillespie, a friend who is the drummer for metalcore band Underoath. "We made a bet at Daytona," Bowman said with a grimace. "We've been talking about it for the last two weeks. Apparently I have to get a neck tattoo, which I'm not real sure if that's going to happen or not. But yeah, next time we're all together, I guess we're all going to get tattoos." Defending Fontana

champion Kyle Busch was 8.9 seconds behind in second place in his Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota. His older brother Kurt was third, and Bowman teammate Chase Elliott came in fourth.

### JIMMIE'S FAREWELL

Six-time Fontana champion Jimmie Johnson finished seventh after running near the front for most of his final race as a full-time driver at the NASCAR track closest to his native El Cajon, California, about 100 miles away. His winless streak is at a career-worst 98 races, but he showed impressive pace before his Hendrick teammate took charge of the race. "Our team is going in the right direction," Johnson said. "We just faded too much at the end. I thought I was going to blow a tire, but we salvaged a top 10 out of it. It's a huge thing for us out here in California. There's been great vibes the whole weekend."

Johnson started on the front row at the track where he has won more than any other driver, starting with his first career Cup win in 2002. The weekend featured several tributes to the seven-time series champion, including a five-wide salute during the warmup laps. Johnson's wife and daughters waved the green flag to start the race. □

# Teens love the video app TikTok. Do they love it too much?

By **TALI ARBEL**  
**AP Technology Writer**

From the perspective of teens, TikTok is a major new outlet for self-expression, one proudly home to the silly, the loud and the weird. To others, the Chinese-owned online video service is an unnerving black box that could be sharing information with the Chinese government, facilitating espionage, or just promoting videos and songs some parents consider lewd. (TikTok denies the first two concerns and says it's working on the third.)

Welcome to the bifurcated world of TikTok, an emerging social-media powerhouse that lets users create and share short videos, many no longer than 15 seconds. "That's where the Gen Z party is," says Kory Marchisotto, chief marketer for e.l.f. Cosmetics. "That's where they're all hanging out."

There's little doubt that TikTok users find it irresistible. But TikTok is also the subject of a U.S. national-security review and a Pentagon ban. U.S. lawmakers are worried about national security and censorship risks posed by TikTok's Chinese ownership. TikTok draws so much attention because it's the first China-owned social-media service to make serious inroads in the West. It's a smash in the U.S. and other countries, attracting celebrities and companies eager to reach kids and young adults disconnected from traditional media. The NFL has an account. So do Chipotle, Reese Witherspoon, and The Washington Post. The U.S. Army previously used it to recruit soldiers.

People have downloaded TikTok 1.65 billion times, the analysis firm Sensor Tower estimates. In 2019, it was the second-most downloaded app in the Apple and Google app stores, trailing only WhatsApp. Research firm eMarketer estimates that TikTok roughly doubled its U.S. user base to 37.2 million in 2019.

To many users, what's special is TikTok's goofiness and sense of genuine fun. To

use, just download the app and start swiping through videos. You don't have to

Nas X, whose "Old Town Road" is the longest-running No. 1 song in the his-

in a country hemmed in by censorship, have largely been confined to a domes-



This Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020 photo shows the icon for TikTok taken in New York.

Associated Press

friend anyone or search for anything to watch. If you don't go looking for it, you might not ever come across angry political discussions, much less envy-generating vacation shots from friends. Instead, you'll likely to encounter a barrage of funny, meme-y videos from total strangers that TikTok spools up for you, personalizing the feed as you go.

Politics, of course, is still there; so is the social-media plague of misinformation. TikTok says it prohibits harmful misinformation.

TikTok makes money from ads, and sometimes the campaigns aren't readily identifiable as ads. Companies can start hashtag-based "challenges" that invite users to participate by posting their own videos, often incorporating a particular dance or dance move. E.l.f. Cosmetics' "eyeslipsface" campaign, for example, had people wink and purse their lips to go with the lyrics of an original song. Users created 3 million videos, with 4 billion views.

The service has helped launch musical stars like Lil

tory of Billboard's charts. There are pranksters, funny skits, behind-the-scenes of fast-food operations and "glow-ups" — before-and-after shots of someone making themselves look cuter. Some are more random: Kim Kardashian cooking parodies?

Some users say TikTok is more authentic than the self-consciously pretty and polished Instagram. Emilie Richer, a 19-year-old from Simcoe, Ontario, says she uses Instagram for "photos that look nice, or the good things I'm doing" and TikTok to "get loose, make jokes, pull pranks and stuff, dress up weird." A TikTok video of Richer catching a pickle thrown into her mouth went viral in November.

A Chinese startup, ByteDance, launched TikTok internationally over two years ago. It then bought Musical.ly, another Chinese video service popular with teens in the U.S. and Europe. ByteDance combined the two, but kept TikTok separate from a twin service called Douyin, which it offers only in China. Until recently, Chinese social media services, built

tic audience.

TikTok's rise, fueled in part by ads on Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat, has in turn shaken those U.S. services. The company behind Snapchat started listing TikTok as a competitor in 2019. Facebook, which famously copies features of its rivals, launched a knock-off called Lasso in 2018 and added TikTok-ian video-editing features to Instagram. Beyond rivalries, concerns range from the sexual nature of some videos to censorship by China's communist government.

India and Indonesia temporarily banned TikTok because of worries about children. Anastasia Basil, a Los Angeles writer whose children are 10 and 12, says she was upset by the explicit lyrics in songs and "extremes of sexualized content" she saw. Her 10-year-old's best friend loves TikTok, she says; she told the friend's mother not to let Basil's daughter use it during sleepovers.

TikTok is working hard to ensure that it's a "safe and positive environment," says Kudzi Chikumbu, the company's head of creator partnerships.

TikTok has fleshed out its community guidelines on what's allowed. It offers a restricted mode for inappropriate content and limited accounts for under-13 users, although it doesn't verify ages. Last year, the company agreed to a \$5.7 million U.S. fine over collecting personal information from kids under 13. The company says it deletes "wrongly created" accounts, such as those of underage users with fake birthdates, when they're reported by other users.

But many security experts worry about the information sucked up by the service. People's social connections, biometric data and interests that would be useful to an advertiser could also assist a hostile government in cultivating spies or tracking dissidents, says John Dermody, a former official with the National Security Council and Department of Homeland Security.

These national-security worries parallel a broader U.S. security crackdown on Chinese companies and President Donald Trump's trade war with China. A U.S. national-security agency is reviewing ByteDance's Musical.ly deal, while the Army, Navy and Marine Corps recently banned service members and personnel from installing TikTok on government-issued phones.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has criticized TikTok for allegedly censoring protests. Newsreports have asserted that TikTok has banned videos and topics in line with Beijing's own censorship rules.

TikTok now insists that it doesn't do so, nor would it even if the Chinese government asked it to. As for spying, the company denies it and says it stores U.S. user data in the U.S. and Singapore, not China.

Not everyone buys that. The Chinese government "can exert a fair amount of soft pressure" and get what it wants, says Chris Calabrese of the U.S. tech watchdog group Center for Democracy & Technology. □

# Stock market jitters? Try some patience and perspective

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL  
AP Personal Finance Writer

To state the obvious, the stock market is a little scary these days.

A viral outbreak has spread to nearly 60 countries and shows little sign of abating. That in turn has stirred worries about the economy on a global scale.

Now, the stock market has surrendered nearly five months worth of gains in an alarmingly short amount of time. Investors can find it difficult to stay the course when uncertainty rules, but experts say that is precisely when they should do so.

"Ultimately no one knows what will happen, and that's why it is important to avoid rash reactions when markets get shaky," said Corbin Blackwell, a financial planner with online investment firm Betterment. Investments should be made as part of a long-term plan. And those plans won't be entirely upended by short-term ups and downs.

What about the 11.5% drop in the S&P 500 this week? It sounds big, but it represents just a fraction of the

gains of the past decade, during which time investors benefited from the longest bull market of all time. The index is still up 337% since March 9, 2009, the start of the bull run.

If you are still uneasy, check in with your financial planner or investment firm. They can let you know if your plan is on track.

Now might be a good time to rebalance your portfolio, to make sure you are holding the right mix of assets for your goals. After all these years of big market gains, some people may have more weight in stocks than they need. Some people may want to take advantage of a dip to buy stocks.

J.J. Kinahan, chief strategist with TD Ameritrade, says investors sometimes make the mistake of being either all in or all out when it comes to their approach to investing in the stock market.

"For those who use the dip as a buying opportunity, buy a small amount. If we do (fall) further, it gives you another buying opportunity at a better price."

If you are considering retire-



This Jan. 31, 2020, file photo shows a Wall Street sign in front of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

ment in the next few years and are getting nervous about market volatility, Blackwell said decreasing exposure to stocks might help you sleep better at night.

Any money you need in the next few years shouldn't be invested in stocks. So, make some minor adjustments based on your needs but avoid the urge to sell off all the stock holdings in your retirement account

because you may need something to last you 20 years or more.

And panicking can cost you: There are fees, taxes and lost potential gains. Think of the people who sold off at the market's bottom during the Great Recession and missed out on some of the greatest gains of all time in the recovery that followed.

"Market volatility is scary and nerve-wracking to

watch," said Andrew Meadows, a senior vice president at Ubiquity Retirement + Savings, a retirement plan provider based in San Francisco. But he reminds people that much of the action investors are seeing in the market right now is short term.

If you simply must do something, build up emergency savings.

Americans are woefully unprepared for financial disruptions such as a major expense, illness or job loss. Having a little extra stashed away could help if you face job loss, illness or even time away from work for a quarantine. But more likely, it will keep you financially protected for any challenge that is thrown your way.

## No ice wine for you: Warm winter nixes special German wine

By DAVID McHUGH  
AP Business Writer  
FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— A warm winter means that, for apparently the first time in the history of German winemaking, the country's fabled vineyards will produce no ice wine — a pricey, golden nectar made from grapes that have been left to freeze on the vine.

The German Wine Institute said Sunday that none of the country's wine regions saw the necessary low temperature of minus 7 degrees Celsius, or 19 degrees Fahrenheit.

A succession of warm winters have cut into ice wine production recently, the institute said, noting that in 2017 only seven producers managed to make it, and only five managed it in 2013.

"If warm winters become more frequent over the coming years, ice wines from Germany's regions will soon become an even more expensive rarity than they already are," said wine institute spokesman Ernst Buescher.

Buescher said the institute knew of no vintage year in this century or last when no ice wine was made, and since winters were colder in the 19th century, it assumed that the latest harvest was the first one to create no ice wine since production began in 1830. Freezing the grapes before they are crushed concentrates the sugar and leads to an intensely sweet, golden wine often served with dessert. It has always been an niche product with around 0.1% of German production, and expensive



In this Dec. 18, 2009 file photo snow covered grapes hang in a vineyard near Freyburg, Germany.

Associated Press

due to low volumes. Making it is a tricky business that can enhance the winemaker's reputation. Workers must race into the vineyards to bring the grapes in with only a few hours notice when the temperature falls, often at night or in the early morning. Since the grapes must be pressed while still frozen, makers labor in unheated

facilities. Vineyard owners also face the risk that grapes set aside for ice wine will rot on the vine before the hard freeze comes. Canada's Niagara Peninsula is one of several other places where ice wine is produced, thanks to its cold winters. It's also made in northern Michigan and Ashtabula County, Ohio, near Lake Erie. □



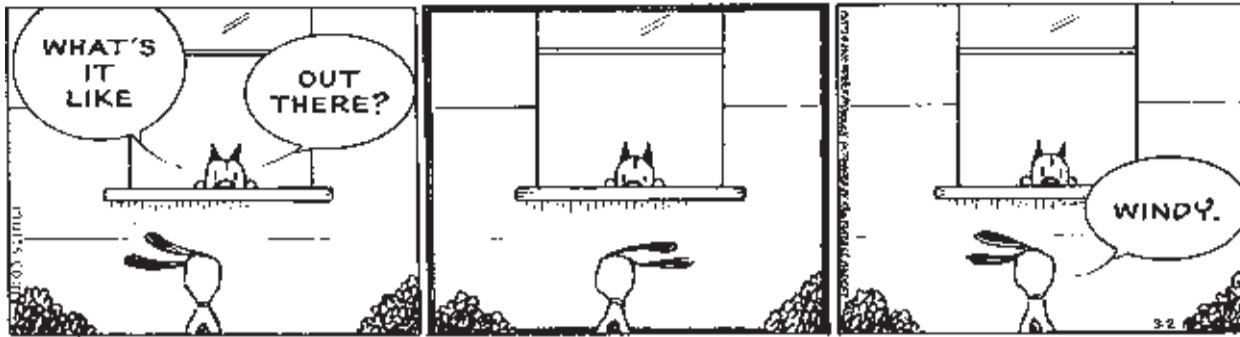
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**Mutts**



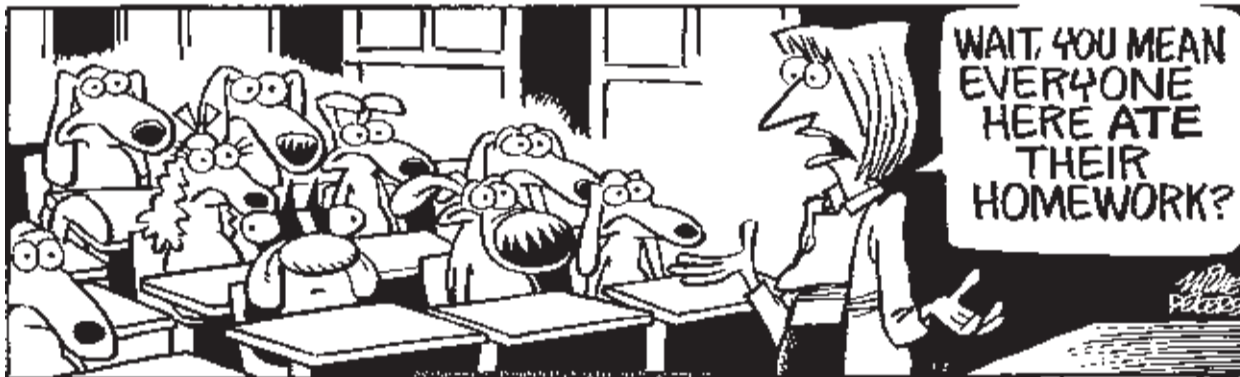
**6 Chix**



**Blondie**



**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

			6		5			
1	6						9	2
9			1		7			5
6		2		3		9		4
			8		2			
7	8			5		3		6
5			2		9			7
2	7						1	9
			3		6			

Difficulty Level ★

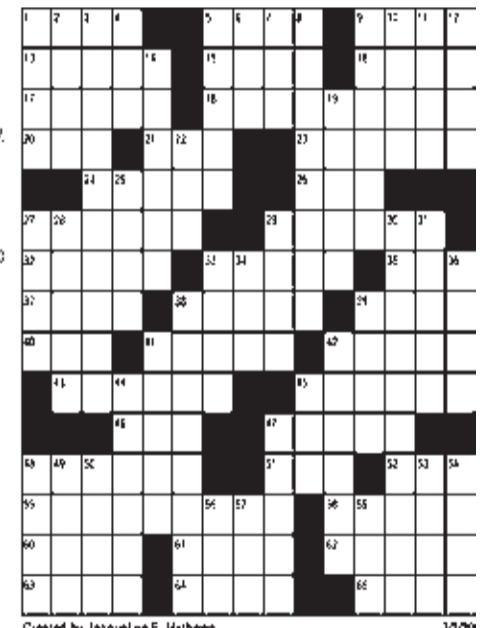
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

2	3	4	5	1	7	6	8	9
9	1	5	6	3	8	7	2	4
7	8	6	2	9	4	5	3	1
3	4	7	9	8	5	2	1	6
6	5	9	7	2	1	3	4	8
8	2	1	3	4	6	9	5	7
4	7	2	8	6	3	1	9	5
5	9	8	1	7	2	4	6	3
1	6	3	4	5	9	8	7	2

- ACROSS**
1. Deadly pale
  5. Vacation
  9. Competent
  13. Coupled
  15. V.I. or Texas A&M
  16. Easier than done
  17. Ascended
  18. Reluctant to obey
  20. Not in words to the impatient
  21. Delicate spoil
  23. Century 21, e.g.
  24. Blackish wood
  26. Moving vehicle
  27. Mental health
  29. Walk as quietly as possible
  32. Fully conscious
  33. Michel's inventory
  35. Prefix for occupied or view
  37. Walking stick
  38. Ring
  39. You'll be
  40. Relives
  41. Liberated
  42. Shopping binge
  43. Business fragrance
  45. Drives too fast
  46. Location of the nucleus
  47. Yikes tea
  48. Angel
  51. Suffix for expert or treat
  52. Family member
  55. Stunning example
  58. South American country
  60. Chantable g.
  61. Snout
  62. Allergic skin reaction
  63. Mrs. Tuman
  64. Pushes off
  65. Crutch markers

- DOWN**
1. Out of town
  2. Vined
  3. Fox singers' gathering
  4. Simple reply
  5. Move quickly
  6. End of the lunch hour, often
  7. Overall cast
  8. Summary
  9. Titled
  10. Arrestee's hope
  11. Dryer fuzz
  12. Nervous
  14. Reduce to a lower rank
  19. By and bounds; rapidly
  22. No longer no more
  25. Two-wheeler
  27. Bag
  28. Expect
  29. Stepped
  30. Tyrannical
  31. Made a box-boo
  33. Now and occasionally
  34. Anger
  36. Fabia features
  38. Brass instrument
  39. Gush forth



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

3/2/20

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

BLT	STAMP	CHAP
BOOS	CEDAR	HOOR
CORE	ORATE	ALSO
PERFORMED	NETS	
MOPE	IRE	
ECHOES	PECULIAR	
MEANS	PRATE	DDE
BARS	GLOSS	FLOE
ESS	JAUNT	CLERK
REHEARSE	MOORES	
LID	DEAR	
GLAD	EMBELLISH	
ROME	NAIVE	SLAM
AVIS	EDDIE	TUTU
BEET	REELS	REO

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## Tulane removes 'Victory Bell' after learning of its history

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — The history behind a bell that stood in front of Tulane University's McAlister Auditorium has prompted university officials to remove it. In a letter emailed to the Tulane community, President Mike Fitts and Board Chairman Doug Hertz said they were informed last week that the "Victory Bell" was originally used to direct the movements of enslaved people on a plantation, The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate reported.

"It is terribly disheartening to learn that it is, in fact, a vestige of a horrific part of our nation's past," the letter said.

"Now that we understand its history as an instrument of slavery, continuing to use this bell in a celebratory manner would run counter to our values."

A close ally of former Gov. Huey P. Long, Leche resigned his office and was sent to federal prison on corruption charges before being pardoned by President Harry Truman and returning to his New Orleans law practice, according to a biography published by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. □

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212406

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Week 5/1315 (18k);  
Week 5&6/1521 (20k/Wk.);  
Week 7&8/1408 (18k/Wk.);  
Week 8/1113; 8/1409 (17k/Wk.);  
Week 9/1218 (15k);  
Week 10/1207 (15k);  
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212287



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1 BR Ocean Front \$ 20 K  
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2 BR Ocean Front \$ 26 K

#### Marriott Surf Club

Platinum Season  
2 BR Ocean View \$ 17 K  
2 BR Ocean Side \$ 18 K  
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 26 K  
3 BR Ocean View \$ 26 K

#### Aruba Divi Phoenix

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27 weeks remain \$15 K  
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building 7 on the 3rd floor  
33 weeks remain \$15 K

#### Aruba Divi Phoenix

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building 9 on the 7 th floor  
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22/27/29 weeks remain

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1 BR WK # 11 \$9 K  
Birdie 3 with 26 weeks remain

### Divi Links Golf

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1 BR WK 9 \$9 K  
1 BR WK 7 and 8 \$ 9 K each  
12/24 weeks remain  
16 weeks remain

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San Nicolas:  
San Nicolas Tel. 584 5712

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
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Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
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Jet Blue	588 2244
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Freewinds

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Narcotics Anonymous  
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Women in Difficulties  
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Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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# Feds reject removal of 4 U.S. Northwest dams in key report

By GILLIAN FLACCUS

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A

long-awaited federal report out Friday rejected the idea of removing four hydroelectric dams on a major Pacific Northwest river in a last-ditch effort to save threatened and endangered salmon, saying such a dramatic approach would destabilize the power grid, increase overall greenhouse emissions and more than double the risk of regional power outages. The four dams on the lower Snake River are part of a vast and complex hydroelectric power system operated by the federal government in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. The massive dams, built in eastern Washington between 1961 and 1975, are at the center of a years-long battle that pits the fate of two iconic Pacific Northwest species — the salmon and the killer whale — against the need for plentiful, carbon-free power for the booming region. Environmental groups that have pushed for years for the dams to come down immediately blasted the report. The three agencies in charge of overseeing the sprawling hydropower system recommended an alternative that doubles down on an approach that includes spilling more water over the dams when juvenile salmon are migrating — a tactic already being used.

"Rather than seizing this opportunity to heed the public's call for working together for a solution that revives salmon populations, the draft plan is built on the same failed approach the courts have rejected time and again," said Todd True, an attorney for Earthjustice who has represented en-



In this April 11, 2018 file photo, water moves through a spillway of the Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River near Almota, Wash.

vironmentalists and fishing groups in ongoing litigation over the dams.

Dam removal opponents, however, said the report presented a balanced solution that won't burden ratepayers or disrupt the region's power supply.

"Once again, the science has determined that destroying the four Lower Snake River dams would have high environmental and economic costs," said Todd Myers, environmental director at the Washington Policy Center, a conservative think tank.

The 14 federal dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers together produce 40% of the region's power — enough electricity to power nearly 5 million homes, or eight cities roughly the size of Seattle. They also contain a system of locks that allows cities nearly 500 miles (800 kilometers) inland access to Asian markets via barges that float down the rivers to the Pacific Ocean. Roughly 50 million to 60 million tons of cargo navigate the Snake and Columbia river system annually.

Yet the towering dams have proven disastrous for salmon that struggle to navigate past them on their way to and from the Pacific Ocean. Salmon are rare in that they hatch in freshwater streams, then make their way hundreds of miles to the ocean, where they spend years before finding their way back to mate, lay eggs and die.

Snowy pike were the first species in the Columbia River Basin listed under the Endangered Species Act in 1991. Now, 13 salmon runs are listed as federally endangered or threatened. Four of those runs return to the Snake River.

The Columbia River system dams cut off more than half of salmon spawning and rearing habitat, and many wild salmon runs in the region have 2% or less of their historic populations, said Meg Townsend, an attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity.

On the way to the ocean, juvenile salmon can get chewed up in the dams' turbines, she said. The adults returning from the ocean must navigate fish ladders — concrete chutes that bypass the dams — but they can become bottlenecked before reaching them and get picked off by predators, Townsend said.

Until recently, young salmon were sent by truck or barge around the dams

or passed through the turbines or bypasses.

An interim agreement that took effect last year prioritized the "flex spill" strategy of increasing the water in spillways to send more fish over the tops of the structures. This approach allows the U.S. government to adjust the spill level according to power demands.

The effect on the long-term survival of juvenile salmon won't be known for several years, when biologists can start counting the adult fish that return from the ocean. Scientists also warn that southern resident orcas are starving to death because of a dearth of the chinook salmon that are their primary food source.

The Pacific Northwest population of orcas — also called killer whales — was placed on the endangered species list in 2005. A mother orca that carried her dead baby on her back for 17 days brought international attention in 2018 as their numbers have dwindled to 72 animals.

Opponents of dam removal say they want salmon to flourish, but they aren't sure breaching four major hydroelectric dams will help — and it could instead damage the regional economy and the stability of the power supply.

Reservoirs behind some of the dams allow the Bonneville Power Administration to even out the more erratic power supply from

wind and solar by spilling water to generate electricity on short notice. And a move away from low-cost coal plants in the Pacific Northwest has some worried about what the future could hold for ratepayers if the Snake River dams are removed, said Kurt Miller, of Northwest River Partners, which represents community-owned utilities across Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana.

"If worldwide salmon populations are doing poorly because of climate change and carbon, does it make sense to tear out 1,000 average megawatts of carbon-free electricity?" he said.

"For so many reasons, it's bad public policy."

The report addressed those concerns, noting hydropower generation would decrease by 1,100 average megawatts under average water conditions, and 730 average megawatts under low water conditions. The risk of a regional power shortages would more than double and the lowest-cost replacement power would be \$200 million a year, it said.

Those adjustments would increase the wholesale power rate up to 9.6%, the authors wrote.

U.S. District Judge Michael Simon ordered the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bonneville Power Administration to revisit the impact of the hydroelectric system in 2016 while overseeing litigation over salmon.

In all, three federal judges have thrown out five plans for the system over the decades after finding they didn't do enough to protect salmon.

Friday's report is a draft and will be subject to 45 days of public comment.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will next analyze the proposal to determine if it does enough to protect salmon and orcas — a process that should be completed by June.

A final report is expected in September. □

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24/7

## Celine gets refined as Balmain celebrates diversity in Paris

By THOMAS ADAMSON

AP Fashion Writer

**PARIS (AP)** — Usher unleashed a photographer's battle at Balmain on Friday, as he appeared at Paris Fashion Week alongside towering model Cindy Bruna. The designer, Olivier Rousteing said of the typically glamazon-filled fashion collection, that it was a celebration of his personal journey. Celine, meanwhile, served up a subtle homage to the 1970's. Here are some highlights of ready-to-wear shows for fall-winter 2020.

### BALMAIN CELEBRATES DIVERSITY AND TRADITIONS

An orphan from posh Bordeaux, where doors were closed to him because of his race, Rousteing said he explored how those same doors suddenly flung open when he became a top designer in Paris.

"I learned from an early age that certain classes, clubs and cliques were closed off to someone who looked like me," he said.

"Many of the codes of a world that was once beyond my reach are key parts of this collection... (that) adapts those symbols of upper-class exclusion and twists them."

In that vein, in the display, he delivered a street-cred makeover to traditional styles — such as silk scarf patterns, classic equestrian looks and the signature harlequin crisscross patterns — ones executed in cognacs and intense blues on rich fabrics such as jersey.

The bourgeois harlequin motif adorned billowing



Models wear creations for the Isabel Marant fashion collection during Women's fashion week Fall/Winter 2020/21 presented in Paris, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020.

African-style capes, and equestrian leather waders looked like stripper boots.

Rousteing's passion was evident in the pure exuberance. The show opening included a dozen models in exactly the same look — a chic double-breasted wool coat with the house DNA of six gold buttons. It evoked the mood of an urban gang.

There were plenty of hits. A loose pastel brown leather pantsuit hybrid subverted the cinched-waist silhouette of house founder Pierre Balmain's Jolie Madame look. Instead of a belt there was a clutch bag on its front, resembling a fanny pack. With its thick leather ruffles, it was surely the collection's best look.

Alas, Rousteing's exuberance was also what was

wrong with the collection, which strayed at times into overkill.

### CELINE'S SUBTLE 70s

Designer Hedi Slimane put on a refined collection for Celine that was notable for its — relative — understatement.

Slimane's touchstone for several seasons, the air of the on-trend 1970's, was captured in every of the 111 — yes, 111 — salable looks. Oversize black floppy hats followed statement talisman necklaces, sequined dresses with bow collars, ruffles on shirts and, of course, that decade's staple of brown corduroy pants. They were all styles we've seen before on the Slimane-Celine runway.

Yet this season was marked by an added refinement — with a perfect balance to

the silhouette.

The statement piece of a cascading layered bohemian skirt that sparkled in black, magenta, artichoke and coral, could have been extreme, but was handled with refinement. It was paired with a simple black bolero-style jacket that allowed the dominant garment breathing space. Giant fur coats were delivered in black, to merge with the model's pants and create a visual continuity. While, culottes fluttered gently.

The bourgeois codes of the storied house of Celine seem to be having a positive effect on Slimane, the once-wild child of fashion. They have somehow complemented his love of excess, by slightly reining it in.

**PARIS FASHION WEEK AF-**

### FECTIONED BY CORONA FEARS

Unlike in Milan, on the face of things, the anxieties over the new coronavirus have been imperceptible at Paris Fashion Week — apart from the appearance of an occasional respiratory mask at shows. But there has been a few jitters.

Paris' fashion federation said earlier this week that six Chinese brands canceled their planned events in Paris because of the outbreak. The absences — of Masha Ma, Shiatzy Chen, Uma Wang, Jarel Zhang, Calvin Luo and Maison Mai — produced gaps during some days' normally back-to-back calendar shows.

The federation said, in a statement, that it will try to promote the brands online instead and "will make available all its communications platforms to allow these brands to share the work they had planned to present both in France and overseas."

Added to that, LVMH suddenly canceled Thursday's cocktail reception to celebrate its 2020 LVMH Prize for Young Fashion Designers, in an email to AP. The event was canceled on the same day that France reported a French citizen on its soil had died from COVID-19. LVMH did not respond to an email asking if there was any correlation. The presentation of the designer's work, it said, was still going on Friday.

On Friday, Chanel said its U.S. office is not traveling to Paris Fashion Week out of precautions over the virus. □

## Iranian director wins prize at Berlin festival in absentia

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— Iranian director Mohammad Rasoulof's "There Is No Evil" won the Golden Bear prize Saturday for best picture at the Berlin Film Festival. Rasoulof wasn't there to accept the award due to a travel ban imposed on him by Iranian authorities.

"There Is No Evil" tells four stories loosely connected to the use of the death penalty in Iran and dealing

with personal freedom under tyranny.

The Berlin festival jury led by actor Jeremy Irons chose the film over 17 others competing for the prize, including Sally Potter's "The Road Not Taken," a remake of "Berlin Alexanderplatz," and "Siberia," starring Willem Dafoe and Dounia Sichov.

Organizers left an empty chair and name sign for Rasoulof at the news conference for his entry. Ger-

many's dpa news agency reported that Rasoulof's daughter, Baran, accepted the Golden Bear award on his behalf.

The Silver Bear for best actress went to Paul Beer for her performance in "Undine" and the Silver Bear for best actor to Elio Germano for his role in "Hidden Away." Best screenplay went to the D'Innocenzo brothers, Damiano and Fabio, for "Bad Tales." □



Benoit Delepine holds the Silver Bear 70th Berlinale award for the film 'Delete History' after the award ceremony at the 70th International Berlinale Film Festival in Berlin, Germany.

Associated Press



This image released by STXfilms shows, from left, Henry Golding, Matthew McConaughey and Charlie Hunnam in a scene from "The Gentlemen."

Associated Press

## Guy Ritchie's 'The Gentlemen' is stale pint of ale

By JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

Guy Ritchie's honor-among-thieves meta-caper "The Gentlemen," with Matthew McConaughey, has all the tailored tweed suits and smoky atmosphere of a handsome scotch commercial. "The Gentlemen" might not be an ad, but Ritchie's film is most assuredly selling something.

It's selling a vision in which "real men" handle their business with a touch of class. There are those who get it (handsome, heterosexual white men) and those who don't (over-ambitious minorities, predatory gay men). In "The Gentlemen," any criminal aspirant lacking the proper panache is set straight, until the underworld empire of crime boss Mickey Pearson (McConaughey) has been sufficiently protected.

"If you wish to be the king of the jungle, it's not enough to act like the king. You must be the king," McConaughey's gangster intones in the film's opening. It's a musing that would fit right into one of McConaughey's Lincoln adverts but it reflects the overarching, chest-thumping ethos of "The Gentlemen," a well-heeled, star-packed

crime thriller that preaches a retrograde masculinity with the mumbo jumbo to go with it.

For Ritchie, "The Gentlemen" is a return to the scene of the crime. The British director first burst on the scene two decades ago with showily stylistic Cockney crime movies ("Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels," "Snatch") before transitioning into larger and glossier studio projects. He made a pair of "Sherlock Holmes" pictures that glumly swapped the detective's brains for brawn, and last year's live-action "Aladdin."

"The Gentlemen" brings Ritchie back into his element, for better and worse, along with an all-star cast including Charlie Hunnam, Hugh Grant, Colin Farrell, Jeremy Strong and Henry Golding. From the start, there's plenty of winking. Mickey walks into a pub where a bartender draws a pint of the director's own microbrew, Ritchie's English Lore. The scene ends with mysterious bloodshed. After the credits, it shifts to a tale being told by a black-mailing tabloid journalist named Fletcher (Grant) to Mickey's consigliere, Raymond (Hunnam).

He relates his shakedown

in elaborate fashion, framing the story he's asking \$20 million not to tell as a movie script titled "Bush." (He thinks it should be in 35mm and be like Francis Ford Coppola's "The Conversation" but less boring.) Raymond mostly listens patiently — he grills Fletcher a steak and abides his occasional leering — while Fletcher describes how Mickey attempted to sell his marijuana farm empire for \$400 million but suddenly ran into countless headaches. His would-be buyer is a wealthy Jewish man played by Jeremy Strong of "Succession," and the biggest tell that he's somehow behind the trouble is his character's fey manner, which in the world of "The Gentlemen" signals his duplicity. There is also an up-and-coming Chinese gangster Dry Eye (Golding), and you can guess that he turns out to be the bad sort of criminal unworthy of Mickey's stature. It's not that Ritchie's film doesn't have some zip. The many-layered narrative, once it comes alive after lengthy exposition, is smartly plotted. And several of the actors are good, especially Farrell as a protective boxing trainer whose kids inadvertently get involved. □

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SUN 2:00 4:45 7:30

**CXC** MON-THU 5:20 8:00  
FRI 5:20 8:00 10:40  
SAT 2:40 5:20 8:00 10:40  
SUN 2:40 5:20 8:00

**PBP** MON-FRI 3:55 6:35 9:15  
SAT-SUN 1:15 3:55 6:35 9:15

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**THE DARE**

**PH** MON-THU & SUN 8:30  
FRI-SAT 8:30 10:50

**PBP** MON-THU 5:00 7:15 9:30  
FRI 5:00 7:15 9:30 11:45  
SAT 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30 11:45  
SUN 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30

KATIE HOLMES | CHRISTOPHER CONVERY

**BRAHMS: THE BOY II**

**PH** MON-THU 6:40 8:50  
FRI 6:40 8:50 11:00  
SAT 2:20 4:30 6:40 8:50 11:00  
SUN 2:20 4:30 6:40 8:50

**PBP** MON-THU 5:30 7:35 9:40  
FRI 5:30 7:35 9:40 11:45  
SAT 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:40 11:45  
SUN 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:40

JAMES MARSDEN | JIM CARREY

**SONIC THE HEDGEHOG**

**PH** MON-THU 6:00 8:20  
FRI 6:00 8:20 10:40  
SAT 3:40 6:00 8:20 10:40  
SUN 3:40 6:00 8:20

**PBP** MON-THU 4:20 6:35 8:50  
FRI 4:20 6:35 8:50 11:05  
SAT 2:05 4:20 6:35 8:50 11:05  
SUN 2:05 4:20 6:35 8:50

HARRISON FORD | KAREN GILLAN

**THE CALL OF THE WILD**

**PH** MON-THU 6:00 8:35  
FRI 6:00 8:35 11:05  
SAT 3:25 6:00 8:35 11:05  
SUN 3:25 6:00 8:35

**PBP** MON-FRI 4:15 6:45  
SAT-SUN 1:45 4:15 6:45

LUCY HALE | MAGGIE Q

**FANTASY ISLAND**

**PH** MON-THU 6:00 8:30  
FRI 6:00 8:30 11:00  
SAT 3:00 6:00 8:30 11:00  
SUN 3:00 6:00 8:30

ANYA TAYLOR-JOY | TANYA REYNOLDS

**EMMA.**

**PH** MON-FRI 5:50  
SAT-SUN 3:10 5:50

WILL SMITH | MARTIN LAWRENCE

**BAD BOYS FOR LIFE**

**PBP** MON-FRI 4:00 6:40 9:20  
SAT-SUN 1:20 4:00 6:40 9:20

MARGOT ROBBIE | MARY ELIZABETH WINSTED

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## Hilary Duff seeks new 'Lizzie McGuire' TV home on Hulu

By LYNN ELBER  
Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Hilary Duff is asking Disney to find a TV home that's more appropriate to the grown-up "Lizzie McGuire."

In an Instagram post, the actress who's reprising the title character for Disney Plus, said the streaming service isn't the best fit, suggesting Hulu instead. The original series, about a girl whose thoughts are expressed by her animated doppelganger, aired from 2001 to 2004 on the Disney Channel.

"Was incredibly excited to launch 'Lizzie' on D+

and my passion remains," Duff said in her post Friday. "However, I feel a huge responsibility to honor the fans' relationship with Lizzie who, like me, grew up seeing themselves in her. I'd be doing a disservice to everyone by limiting the realities of a 30-year-old's journey to live under the ceiling of a PG rating."

The original series was an authentic portrayal of Lizzie as a preteen and teenager, Duff said, and her next chapters should be "as real and relatable." Production on the reboot was suspended in January after the exit of show-



In this Aug. 23, 2019, file photo, Hilary Duff attends the Disney+ press line at the 2019 D23 Expo in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

runner and original series creator Terri Minsky, trade publication Variety has reported. □

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**Virus fears close down France's famed Louvre Museum**

By **JOHN LEICESTER**  
**Associated Press**

**PARIS (AP)** — The spreading coronavirus epidemic shut down France's Louvre Museum on Sunday, with workers who guard its famous trove of artworks fearful of being contaminated by the museum's flow of tourists from around the world. Almost three-quarters of the Louvre's 9.6 million visitors last year came from abroad. The world's most popular museum welcomes tens of thousands of fans daily in Paris.

"We are very worried because we have visitors from everywhere," said Andre Sacristin, a Louvre employee and union representative.

"The risk is very, very, very great," he said in a phone interview. While there are no known virus infections among the museum's 2,300 workers, "it's only a question of time," he said.

A short statement from the

Louvre said a staff meeting about virus prevention efforts stopped the museum from opening as scheduled Sunday morning.

Would-be visitors were still

Among the frustrated visitors was Charles Lim from Singapore.

He and his wife, Jeanette, chose Paris to celebrate their first wedding anniversary.



**Tourists stand outside the Louvre museum, in Paris, France, Sunday, March 1, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

waiting Sunday afternoon to get inside but the Louvre later announced it would not open at all on Sunday.

sary and bought tickets in advance for the Louvre, home to the "Mona Lisa" and other famous artworks.

He posted a video on Twitter of the long lines of people waiting to get in.

"We waited for about 3 hours before giving up," he told The Associated Press. "It was incredibly disappointing."

The shutdown followed a French government decision Saturday to ban indoor public gatherings of more than 5,000 people.

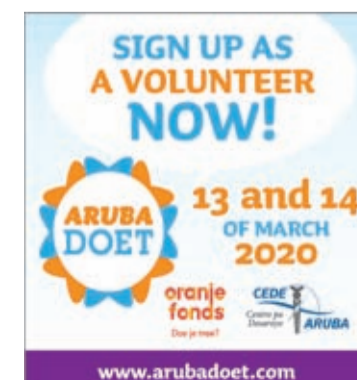
Sacristin said the new measure exacerbated the fears of Louvre workers that they might be in danger of contamination. Louvre staffers were also concerned about museum workers from northern Italy who had come to the museum to collect works by Leonardo da Vinci that were loaned for a major exhibition, he said.

Italy, with over 1,100 coronavirus cases and 29 deaths, has been the epicenter of the outbreak in Europe. Another meeting about virus prevention at

the Louvre is scheduled for Monday between union representatives and the museum management.

Sacristin, who will be taking part, said museum visitors should be subjected to health checks to protect staffers and if any cases of coronavirus contamination are confirmed "then the museum should be closed." Workers have asked for masks to be distributed but so far have been given only an alcohol-based solution to disinfect their hands, he said.

"That didn't please us at all," he said. □



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